

Millions of Blacks stage May 1 strike in S. Africa

BY FRED FELDMAN

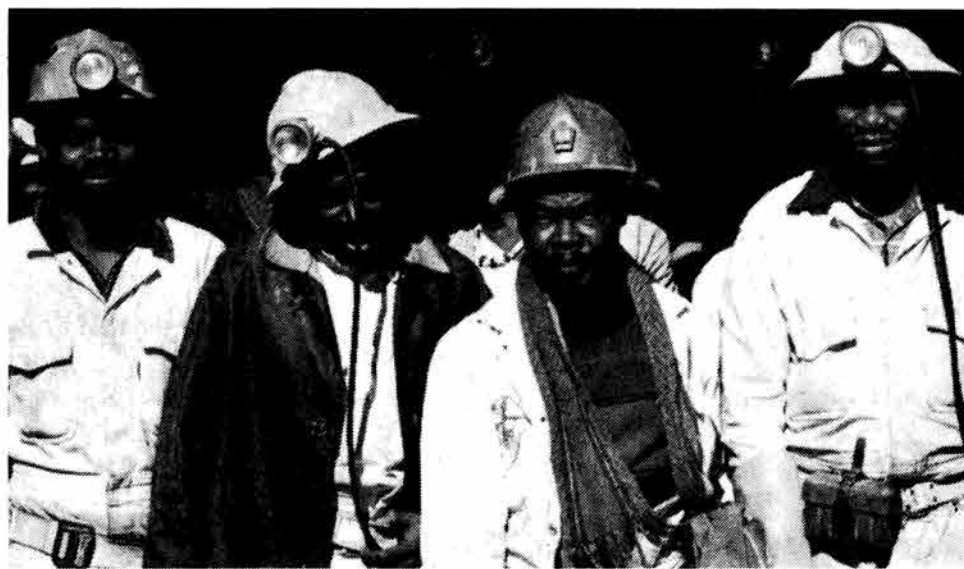
The biggest strike that has ever taken place in South Africa brought business to a near standstill May 1, as some 2 million Black workers stayed off the job. The one-day strike was called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the nonracial federation that has 500,000 members.

The strike was in support of the demand that May Day be made an official national holiday. But it was also a massive show of determination to put an end to the apartheid system, which enables the white rulers to monopolize political and economic power by plundering the land of the Black majority, forcibly segregating them, and denying Blacks all political rights.

About 1 million students boycotted classes in support of the strike.

According to the Association of Chambers of Commerce of South Africa, between 70 and 100 percent of the Black work force in major urban areas participated in the strike. There was virtually 100 percent Black participation in the strike in the region around Port Elizabeth. About 80 percent went on strike in the region around Johannesburg, South Africa's main industrial and mining area. And 70 percent of Black workers in the Durban area were reported to have joined the strike.

The Chamber of Mines, the organization of mineowners, sought unsuccessfully to have the strike declared illegal. Other employers threatened to penalize workers for



South African gold miners. Mineowners failed in effort to block massive May Day strike organized by Congress of South African Trade Unions.

participating. In the face of massive support for the strike, however, some employers yielded to the union federation's demand for a paid day off. The Chamber of Mines conceded that workers could take May 1 as an unpaid personal day.

In Soweto, the 1.5 million-person Black township near Johannesburg, 30,000 people participated in a rally sponsored by the Congress of South African Trade Unions. About 10,000 attended a

COSATU rally in Durban. Rallies were held in other areas as well.

The strike shows the growing strength of COSATU and its importance as a component of the anti-apartheid struggle. The federation was founded on Dec. 1, 1985, with more than 30 unions as members.

While unions have gained ground in South Africa, brutal repression — including forced removal of strikers to the desolate reservations for Blacks, called Bantustans, and murder of strikers — are still everyday occurrences. But the federation's fighting stance in defense of Blacks against the employers and the regime has continued to attract support.

Until 1979, African workers — the great majority of South Africa's working class — had no legal right to form recognized unions, negotiate contracts, or strike. In 1979, the regime conceded these rights to a limited extent when it proved unable to suppress the growth of union organization and strike struggles by African and other Black workers. (The oppressed Black population in South Africa consists of 24 million Africans, 3 million Coloureds, and almost 1 million Indians.)

As the anti-apartheid struggle intensifies, the unions are playing a bigger role. On Nov. 5 and 6, 1984, several major unions organized an anti-apartheid strike of about 1 million workers in the Transvaal Province, which includes Johannesburg and the capital city of Pretoria. The found-

Continued on Page 17

Eight convicted for aiding Central American refugees

BY SUE ALLEN

PHOENIX — Eight activists who gave aid and shelter to refugees from Central America were convicted of violating U.S. immigration laws. The jury decision was announced on May 1 in Tucson, Arizona.

This ruling is a blow to the fight for political asylum for those fleeing repression by U.S.-backed dictatorships. And the trial and convictions are intended to intimidate all opponents of U.S. intervention in Central America.

The activists are part of the network of churches and synagogues that help Guatemalans, Salvadorans, and other Central American refugees.

The jury convicted the activists on 18 charges and acquitted them on 22 others.

Six of the defendants were convicted of conspiring to smuggle Salvadorans and Guatemalans into the United States. This was the most serious charge against the 11 who were on trial.

The six were: Rev. John Fife, a Presbyterian minister who helped begin the sanctuary movement; Rev. Ramon Dago-berto Quinones, a Catholic priest from Mexico; Darlene Nicgorski, a Catholic nun; and lay workers Margaret Hutchison, María del Socorro Pardo de Aguilar of Mexico, and Philip Willis-Conger.

The maximum sentence for the conspiracy charge is five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Convicted on charges that carry a lesser penalty, such as concealing, harboring, or transporting refugees the government calls "illegal," were: Rev. Anthony Clark, a Catholic priest; and lay worker Wendy LeWin.

The maximum sentence on these charges is five years in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

The three defendants who were acquitted on all counts were: James Corbett,

Mary Doan Espinoza, and Nena MacDonald.

All of those convicted were released on their own recognizance until sentencing, which is set for July 1.

After the verdict was read, the activists told the press that they intend to continue to help Salvadoran, Honduran, and Guatemalan refugees. Defense attorney Dana Cooper said that they would appeal the verdict.

The trial was marked by the court's refusal to allow the defendants to present the relevant arguments for their actions, thus violating their rights and severely hamper-

Continued on Page 14

Nicaragua: farmers discuss land reform, war

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) "has fortified the struggle against imperialism and the battle for production, contributing to the strengthening of the alliance between workers and peasants and pushing forward the land reform."

This was the assessment of Commander of the Revolution Víctor Tirado, a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front. He was addressing thousands of peasants gathered in Managua's Plaza of the Non-Aligned Movement for the closing rally of UNAG's First Peasant Congress. Delegates representing the 124,000 peasants organized by UNAG met here April 25-27.

UNAG President Daniel Núñez told the closing rally that the congress had decided that UNAG's central tasks were strengthening Nicaragua's defense against

attacks by U.S.-backed mercenaries (*contras*), deepening the land reform, increasing production, and strengthening the alliance between Nicaragua's workers and peasants.

The congress was dedicated to former Swedish prime minister Olof Palme, who was assassinated in February. "He was a fighter for peace," said Núñez. Giving Palme's name to the congress "shows we Nicaraguans love peace."

Núñez reported that on the first day of the congress, two more peasants, members of cooperatives, were murdered by *contras*. In all, more than 900 UNAG members have been killed and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of farm buildings, machinery, and products destroyed by the mercenaries. A central aim of these attacks is to terrorize the peasantry and weaken support for the revolution in the countryside.

The UNAG congress showed, however,

U.S. lies follow USSR nuke disaster

BY HARRY RING

The information made available by the Soviet government establishes that the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was of a disastrous dimension.

But the scope of the tragedy did not inhibit capitalist politicians and media in this country from using it for the grossest kind of anti-Soviet propaganda.

In the face of that grim event, you could not detect a trace of concern or elementary human solidarity among the politicians in Washington. Clearly, they couldn't care less.

Instead, we were subjected to a flood of deliberate lies and wild rumors about the nature of the accident and the number of casualties. ("15,000 dead" blared the *New York Post*. "Some 2,000 people died on the way to the hospital," reported UPI.)

Washington officials who have worked overtime to cover up the truth about nuclear accidents in this country suddenly became righteously concerned that the people have full information and hypocritically denounced the Soviet government for not being sufficiently forthright about what happened at Chernobyl.

The anti-Soviet campaign had another purpose: to befog the fact that Chernobyl confirms how dangerous nuclear power is.

To thwart mounting antinuclear sentiment, the politicians and media have been frantically trying to establish that Soviet nuclear power is dangerous, not nuclear power in general.

The Soviet Union, they argue, doesn't have the level of technological development of the capitalist world. Its workers aren't as competent. It cuts corners on safety. It builds reactors in populated areas. Before the facts were reported, they argued that the Soviet Union doesn't have the kind of evacuation programs that have been developed here.

In sum, they hope they can brainwash us into believing that while it did happen in the Soviet Union, it can't happen here.

Chernobyl proves the exact opposite.

At a May 6 press conference in Moscow, Boris Shcherbina, deputy prime minister and head of the committee investigating the accident, indicated it had been set off by an explosion.

"The most probable version is an explo-

Continued on Page 7

that peasants' support for the revolution has deepened as a result of their experiences in the war and as Nicaragua's revolutionary government has distributed more land to landless peasants and further consolidated UNAG as a nationwide organization.

Prior to the congress, more than 100,000 peasants participated in local assemblies to discuss three documents: an assessment of UNAG's work since its 1981 founding, a document on tasks for 1986 and 1987, and new organizational statutes. Their suggestions, criticisms and additions were incorporated in the final documents presented to the congress.

The peasants elected 500 delegates at assemblies throughout the country. The delegates came from every region of Nicaragua, including the Atlantic Coast and other areas hard hit by *contra* attacks.

Continued on Page 11

N.Y. flight attendants like Hormel strike coverage

BY MITCHEL ROSENBERG

NEW YORK — The *Militant* has won respect from new readers here as a result of its on-the-scene coverage of the Hormel meatpackers' strike in Austin, Minnesota,

strike and the support it's receiving. They explained that many machinists who are members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) hate crossing IFFA picket lines at airports. The

company property. The team responded by organizing its sales at an intersection leading to the main plant gate.

Now UAW members on their way into the plant see large signs that say: "Read the *Militant* — support Hormel strikers — boycott Hormel." Sales fell off after we were prevented from selling on company property, but are picking up again. On our last visit Tarrytown auto workers bought five *Militants* and two copies of the Spanish-language biweekly *Perspectiva Mundial*.

We've also had successful sales at Hi and Wide, a women's sportswear garment shop in Long Island City organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

There are a lot of regular layoffs at Hi and Wide, but during peak hiring there are about 200 workers in the plant — many of them Hispanic women. At those times we've sold 12 to 15 *Perspectiva Mundials* and *Militants* standing on the nearby street corner. Some of the sales have been to West Indian workers who are employed in other shops in the area.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

and other labor struggles.

Among those new readers are some striking flight attendants who support the strike by Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers. Many of these International Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA) members have met striking meatpackers when they have visited the New York area. Some flight attendants are participants in the local tour committee for P-9.

Militant sales teams have been warmly received at IFFA picket lines at JFK and LaGuardia airports.

On one recent sale, five flight attendants bought the *Militant*. They wanted to talk about their

attendants told us about one IAM local whose members have begun pursuing ways to replace their local's leadership with one that would uphold workers' solidarity.

The *Militant's* presence at flight attendants' picket lines and its support of their strike has made sales teams feel welcome at IFFA union meetings as well. At a union meeting on May 5, for example, 30 flight attendants bought copies of the *Militant*.

Another of our regular sales is at the General Motors plant in Tarrytown, which is organized by the United Auto Workers. The team used to be able to sell in the plant parking lot. Recently, however, company guards, backed by Tarrytown cops, have forced us off



Militant sales teams in New York have been visiting their picket lines at area airports.

Team sells 300 'Militants' to Iowa meatpackers

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — In six days, a team of socialists traveling through Iowa have sold 596 copies of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language biweekly *Perspectiva Mundial*. We also sold 53 subscriptions to the two publications and 47 copies of the *Young Socialist* newspaper.

We introduce the papers as socialist publications that oppose the U.S.-organized war in Central America and support United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9, which is on strike against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota.

So far our sales are highest among meatpacking workers who are members of the UFCW, and among students.

At three meatpacking plants we have visited, workers are under severe attack from the employers. They are FDL Foods company, a subsidiary of Hormel, Oscar Mayer, and Farmstead. All three companies have slashed wages, increased the work speed, and tried to weaken the union. The workers at these plants are watching the Hormel strike closely. At Oscar Mayer, UFCW Local 431 members each give \$2 a week to support the strike.

We sold 302 *Militants* and 3 subscriptions at these plants. Many workers say they agree with the paper's support for P-9 and its opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America. Some workers have told

us they are socialists.

The team has also visited three John Deere plants, the major producer of agricultural implements. The United Auto Workers members in these plants have faced thousands of layoffs. "When the farmers are down, we're down," said one worker. Fifty-six John Deere workers bought the *Militant*.

Our team has also sold a total of 150 single copies of the *Militant* and 42 subscriptions at seven campuses and a high school. All the campuses we visited have had anti-apartheid, anti-contra aid, and other protest actions. Campus leaders are also familiar with Local P-9's strike. A number of students are driving down to Ottumwa, Iowa, for the May 10 rally in support of Hormel workers there, members of UFCW Local 431 who were fired for refusing to cross roving picket lines set up by Local P-9.

The campus activism has tied in with the farm crisis here. For example, in Dubuque, three college campuses — the University of Dubuque, Loras College, and Clarke College — jointly held a "Farms Not Arms" educational and protest week. Tractors with signs protesting contra aid and weapons spending were parked on the lawns of the schools.

When we arrived in Iowa City, we ran into a Farms Not Arms walkathon of over

100 people. It was cosponsored by the University of Iowa Rural Crisis Committee. This is a new group that was initiated by several Central American solidarity activists. They are planning a regional conference next fall and hope to have Daniel Núñez, the president of Nicaragua's National Union of Farmers and Ranchers, as a

speaker.

The team will now spend time talking to working farmers in Ames and elsewhere in Iowa. We are also planning to visit the Oscar Mayer plant in Perry. UFCW members there are standing firm against company threats to close the plant on May 9 unless the workers make deep concessions.

Iowa students join Young Socialists

BY KATE KAKU

MT. VERNON, Iowa — "I heard that the Young Socialist Alliance was on campus and I thought, 'All right!' Mondays can't be all that bad," said Chris, the student body president at Cornell College here.

Chris is a central leader of the antiwar and anti-apartheid protest activities on campus. He and a leader of the Latin American Human Rights Advocacy Committee, Mary, both joined the YSA after spending a day talking with our team.

On a few hours notice, they arranged a radio interview and an evening meeting for the YSA that drew 20 students. Almost everyone at the meeting bought socialist newspapers and signed up on the mailing list. Several more want to talk to us about joining the YSA.

Chris and Mary took information in order to talk to other students about form-

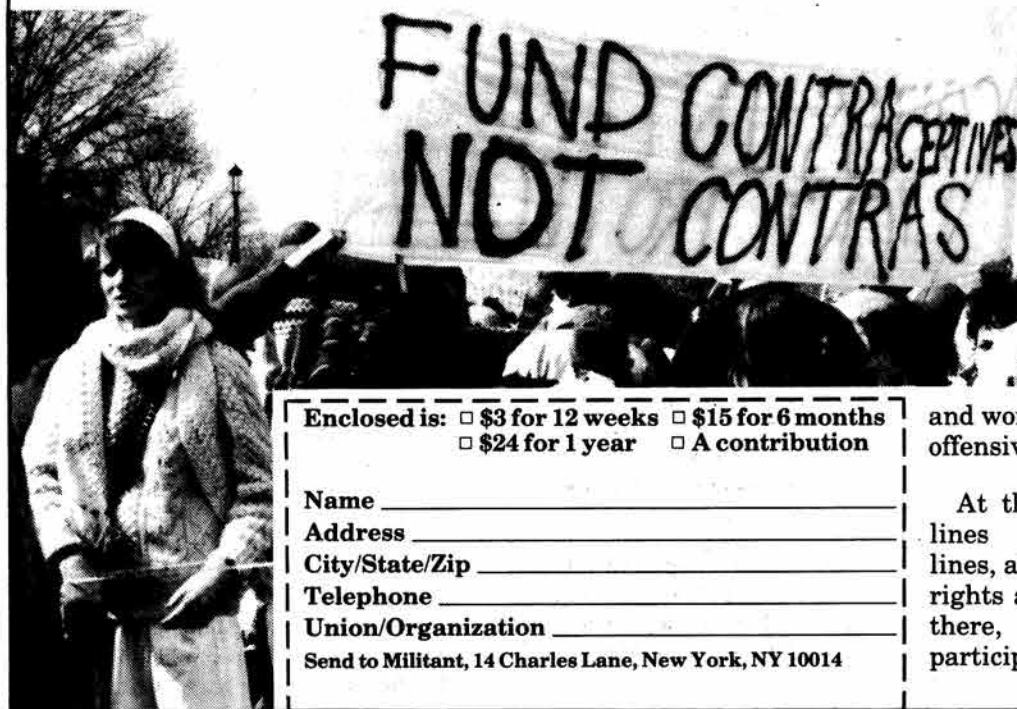
ing a YSA chapter. This is the same kind of response the team has gotten on the seven campuses we have visited. With campus political activism on the rise, students are looking for a serious socialist organization to join.

For example, Jennifer at Saint Ambrose College in Davenport — a leader of the National Organization for Women chapter — asked to join the YSA and to start a YSA chapter on campus.

At the University of Iowa in Iowa City, students took us from a Farms Not Arms march to the campus shantytown put up in protest to apartheid in South Africa, then to a "Take Back the Night" demonstration for women's rights.

They helped us introduce the *Militant*, *Young Socialist*, and the YSA to other activists. We wound up with a long list of names and one woman who asked to join the YSA.

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That's the way you'll get facts about Washington's war against working people at home and abroad: from South Africa and Nicaragua, to embattled workers and farmers in the U.S. Read our ideas on how to stop apartheid, war, the oppression of Blacks and women, and the employer offensive against all workers.

At the plant gates, picket lines and unemployment lines, at antiwar and abortion rights actions, the *Militant* is there, reporting the news, participating in struggle.

The Militant

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Pa. socialist backs women's rights

Candidate supports statewide abortion rights demonstration

The following statement was released by Clare Fraenzl, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, to the proabortion rights March for Women's Lives taking place in Harrisburg on May 10.

Fraenzl is a coal miner, a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1197, and secretary of the Pennsylvania Women Miners Support Group.

She is a longtime member of the National Organization for Women and fighter for women's rights.

Women's rights are under attack. Past gains won in struggle, from affirmative action in employment to steps toward equal pay for equal and comparable work, are threatened. The cutting edge of this anti-woman drive is the attempt to take away the right to choose abortion. Right-wing forces, encouraged by the Reagan administration, are attempting to use terror and violence to take back this fundamental right, while many liberal capitalist politicians are in full retreat.

In Pennsylvania, a bill sponsored by Democrat Joseph Rocks is before the legislature, which would harass abortion clinics by making it more difficult for them to get licensed. Supporters of women's rights have to rely on ourselves and our allies in the labor movement and Black and Latino communities to beat back this attack. We

have to mobilize as we did on March 9 in Washington, D.C., and here today in Harrisburg.

Without the right to control our own bodies, women will in fact always be relegated to an inferior position compared to men and hamstrung in our ability to fight for equal rights on all fronts. The horrors of the back-alley abortionists would once again epitomize the reality of the second-class status of women.

Female and male supporters of women's right to choose and of women's rights in general have to be concerned about other issues too. The attack on women's rights is one side of a broader attack on the rights, working conditions, standard of living, and organizations of all working people by the handful of extremely rich families who dominate the economy and control the government through the Democratic and Republican parties. Part of their program is to draw us into new wars to defend their system of domination in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The terror bombing of Libya was aimed against a government that Washington considers independent of its control. It was aimed against the Arab people of the Mideast and was also a demonstration by the rulers of this country that they are ready to use acts of war against any people who begin to fight to free themselves from colonial exploitation and domination.

The Libya bombing had a more far-reaching goal related to Nicaragua. The U.S.-created war in Nicaragua, now being waged through surrogate *contra* bands of thugs and terrorists, is being regionalized and threatens to become a direct U.S. war. The purpose of this war is to overthrow the popular government that the workers and farmers of Nicaragua established through their revolution against the hated Somoza dictatorship. Reagan wants to reinstall that kind of puppet regime again.

Attacks on our rights and living standards at home go hand in hand with widening war abroad.

We must all raise our voices and demand:

Defend the right of women to choose abortion!

End the attacks on Libya!

No aid to the contras! Stop Washington's dirty war against Nicaragua!



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Clare Fraenzl, candidate for governor.

May 17 antiwar actions called

The Pledge of Resistance has called for local antiwar demonstrations May 17, Armed Forces Day, in cities across the country.

Stephen Slade, national Pledge coordinator, explained that these demonstrations

are part of the "ongoing struggle for the hearts and minds of the American people" over the issue of U.S. intervention in Central America.

These protests come at a time when Washington is escalating the *contra* war against Nicaragua. The Reagan administration recently released more guns and ammunition that had been stockpiled in Honduras and authorized the sending of a large military helicopter to the contras.

These moves make it clear that the White House is not waiting until mid-June, when Congress is due to vote on Reagan's proposal to send \$100 million to the mercenaries, to beef up the *contra* forces.

Last April 14 the Pledge coordinated more than 200 local antiwar actions to protest aid to the contras.

Slade pointed out that the May actions are to show the cost of the war, not only in money but also in human lives.

For more information call the Pledge Hotline at (202) 328-4042 or the Pledge of Resistance National Clearinghouse at (202) 328-4040.

Miami May 17 protest against contra aid will defend rights

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

MIAMI — A May 17 demonstration here against U.S. government aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries will be a response to the city government's attacks on free speech.

Miami's mayor, Xavier Suarez, along with other officials, led a prowar mob in disrupting an antiwar protest here March 22. For two hours the mob threw bottles, rocks, eggs, and other objects at peaceful demonstrators in downtown Miami. In response, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized a Free Speech rally at City Hall April 12. The May 17 antiwar action will be another opportunity to defend the democratic right to speak out against U.S. government policies.

The action in Bicentennial Park is part of a national day of protest against the \$100 million Reagan is asking Congress to approve for the U.S.-backed mercenaries in Nicaragua.

The Miami protest is being organized by the Coalition for Non-intervention in Central America. It has been endorsed by antiwar and Central America solidarity groups, as well as religious and Black rights organizations. These include the American Friends Service Committee, Antonio Maceo Brigade, National Organization for Women, Dade County Young Democrats, Haitian Refugee Center, Coalition for a Free South Africa, Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Association, Socialist Workers Party, U.S. Peace Council, and several others.

Speakers at the rally will include Rep. John Conyers from the Congressional Black Caucus, Baldemar Velásquez, head of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, and Bert Corona from the National Rainbow Coalition.

Areas increase sales goals for 'Militant'

BY TOM LEONARD

Combined single sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* in the seventh week of our national sales and subscription drive fell a little below the previous week when we sold 3,907 single copies. A combined total of 3,739 papers were sold last

week.

Subscriptions for the week totaled 106 for the *Militant* and 14 for the Spanish-language biweekly *Perspectiva Mundial*. The good news here is that these subscriptions, combined with those received through the mail at the newspapers' circulation offices,

put us slightly ahead of our projected schedule. (See accompanying scoreboard.)

Several areas have announced increases over their original sales quotas. Boston, for example, has increased its single sales goal by 200, and has also increased its subscription goal. One reason might be the excellent sales by a Young Socialist Alliance member who works in an International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union-organized shop of 30 workers. Last week he sold his six *Militant* subscriptions to co-workers.

Other areas continued to have excellent community sales last week. These included Dallas, with 170 *Militants* and 60 *Perspectiva Mundials*. They also sold five *Militant* and two *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions.

Phoenix also had good community sales of 90 single copies of the *Militant* and 60 of *Perspectiva Mundial*. Seven of the Spanish-language magazines were sold by a young woman who just joined the Young Socialist Alliance three weeks ago.

In Atlanta a young Black ex-GI bought a *Militant* and returned 20 minutes later to buy a subscription. He said he liked the *Militant* so much that "I could have written all the articles myself." He also asked to join the YSA and has already sold 12 *Militants* on three different sales.

A labor rally held in Seattle proved to be a good place for selling the *Militant*. One salesperson sold 56 single copies. Ten of them were to members of the Teamsters Union.

In San Francisco a team traveled to Watsonville, California, to sell door-to-door in the community. Watsonville is the site of a strike by cannery workers. In two hours, the four-person team sold 59 *Perspectiva Mundials* and 9 *Militants*.

Another San Francisco team participated in an anti-apartheid teach-in at the University of California at Berkeley. They sold 23 copies of the *Militant*.

Another good campus sale was carried out by a regional team from the Capital District in upstate New York. They went to the Rensselaer and Bard college campuses. Altogether they sold 21 *Militants*, 10 *Young Socialists*, and 6 *Militant* subscriptions. In addition they sold \$109 worth of Pathfinder books and YSA material.

Upcoming sales target weeks promise to bring good results given the response so far to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. In a sneak preview, Newark, New Jersey, began the first of its two target week sales on May 3 and 4 (not counted in this week's scoreboard). As of May 6, they'd sold 319 *Militants*, 34 *Perspectiva Mundials*, and 8 subscriptions.

SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #8: Totals as of Militant issue #17, PM issue #8)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES			
	Militants and Perspectiva Mundials sold this week	Total sold so far	10-week goal	Subscriptions sold so far
Atlanta	145	921	1,040	25
Baltimore	42	594	810	30
Birmingham	59	485	900	24
Boston	90	892	1,000	108
Capital District, N.Y.	72	520	730	58
Charleston, W.Va.	60	562	600	14
Chicago	231	979	1,500	28
Cincinnati	37	299	600	14
Cleveland	84	456	900	25
Dallas	203	1,134	1,700	34
Denver	62	552	800	40
Detroit	138	1,352	1,570	58
Greensboro, N.C.	56	594	650	51
Houston	117	1,441	1,800	44
Kansas City	40	516	1,120	21
Los Angeles	184	1,688	2,000	100
Louisville	26	278	375	15
Miami	68	354	550	51
Milwaukee	66	582	750	30
Morgantown, W.Va.	57	579	700	11
New Orleans	61	513	650	42
New York	173	2,545	3,250	127
Newark	189	1,782	2,600	81
Oakland	91	573	1,135	25
Philadelphia	43	511	1,000	13
Phoenix	163	1,016	1,500	44
Pittsburgh	56	446	650	23
Portland	64	518	650	21
Price, Utah	20	94	250	4
Salt Lake City	48	535	640	33
San Diego	*	344	580	11
San Francisco	184	966	1,300	53
San Jose	66	748	1,000	48
Seattle	90	676	800	35
St. Louis	113	841	1,250	33
Tidewater, Va.	35	307	375	16
Toledo	34	358	500	46
Twin Cities	155	1,151	1,600	72
Washington, D.C.	67	718	800	54
Midwest Sales Team	250	250	—	12
Total sold this week	3,739			
Total sold so far		29,766		1,614
10-week national goal			45,000	2,000
Percent of national goal reached			66%	81%
To be on schedule			80%	80%

* not reporting

Stop the bombing in El Salvador

The May 2 *New York Times* carried a quarter-page ad headlined "An open letter to President Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador and President Ronald Reagan of the United States of America in response to the indiscriminate bombing of civilians in El Salvador."

The ad was sponsored by the U.S. Office on Human Rights in El Salvador, a private non-governmental organization, and the Justice and Peace Commission, Archdiocese of San Francisco. It was endorsed by 1,460 clergy, members of religious orders, and active lay people.

The ad was placed in the *National Catholic Reporter*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and in a newspaper in El Salvador.

The ad read, in part: "We turn to you and your administration, President Reagan, invoking the words of martyred Archbishop Oscar Romero in his 1980 letter to President Carter when he said, 'Your government's contribution, instead of favoring the cause of justice and peace in El Salvador, will surely increase injustice here and sharpen the repression.' We appeal to you for an end to the use of U.S. airplanes, bombs, and bullets against our Salvadoran brothers and sisters."

It also called on the Duarte government to stop the bombing of zones inhabited by civilians.

Cincinnati: 200 rally against contra aid

Some 200 people rallied at the Federal Building in downtown



Tenancingo, El Salvador, after bombing by U.S.-backed regime. Ad in *New York Times* appealed to Reagan and Salvadoran President Duarte to stop bombing.

Cincinnati protesting Washington's aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. About 25 then occupied Rep. Willis Gradison's office for two hours. They were threatened with arrest. The April 14 protest was called by the Central American Task Force, Coalition for Public Sanctuary, and the Coalition for Peace Education.

Many marchers carried crosses that had the names of Nicaraguans murdered by the contras and a description of how the murders were carried out. Most of those who spoke at the rally were ministers, priests, or nuns.

26th anniversary of SWAPO

BY PAT WRIGHT

NEW YORK — Two hundred people gathered in Harlem April 20 to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the founding of the South West Africa People's Organisation. SWAPO has been in the leadership of the fight against South African occupation of Namibia. It was founded in 1960 in the aftermath of a massacre by the South African police, who were trying to push Namibian Blacks off their land to give it to

whites. Sophie Kakena Nangula of SWAPO told the audience, "It was founded to organize one voice, to stand as one body headed in one direction, and SWAPO has never wavered in our resistance to colonial occupation."

"Hundreds of lives are being lost while Reagan supports South Africa's occupation and attacks on Namibia," she added.

Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition chaired the event. In addition to discussing U.S. involvement in southern Africa, Brath talked about Libya. He explained the gains Libyans have made since Muammar el-Qaddafi and other junior military officers came to power in 1969, overthrowing the reactionary regime of King Idris.

"U.S. oil no longer has free rein, and the resources of the country are being used for the benefit of the people. These things strike terror into the heart of imperialism," he said to loud applause and chants of approval.

Emergency meeting in Va. protests bombing of Libya

BY JAY RESSLER

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — An emergency meeting to protest the U.S. bombing of Libya was held at Old Dominion University. It was sponsored by the ODU Progressive Student Network and the Tidewater Young Socialist Alliance.

It was opened up by Beth Hester of the YSA. She explained that several threats of violence had been made against the organizers of the meeting.

Hester reported that right-wing thugs had recently attacked a Central America solidarity literature table on the campus. The success of the Libya meeting was a victory for free speech.

Other speakers included John Chapman, Progressive Student Network; Ann McDonald, Pledge of Resistance; Allison Bradner, National Lawyers Guild and president of Tidewater National Organization for Women; and Bob Morgan, Socialist Workers Party.

The Peninsula Peace Education Center sent a statement to the meeting condemning the bombing.

One young sailor, who attended after learning about the threat that had been made on the meeting, volunteered to help the monitors. Another participant said he had just gotten out of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Three members of the Reserve Officer Training Corps were there. One of them said he disagreed with U.S. government backing for the apartheid regime in South Africa, but said he wasn't sure how that related to Libya or Central America. Another said his father is a union official and that he was deeply disturbed by the assassination of union leaders in El Salvador, whose regime is backed by Washington.

Several other protests have also taken place in the Tidewater area recently. At William and Mary College, students erected huge papier-mâché bomb craters along with lists of casualties resulting from the U.S. air raid on Libya.

When some right-wing students began vandalizing the bomb craters, the antiwar students came out to protect them and engaged pro-war students in discussion and debate, successfully defending their right to protest.

Women elected to district posts in miners' union

BY DAVE HURST

PRICE, Utah — A large crowd turned out at United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) District 22 headquarters for the swearing-in of district officials April 1. Joy Huitt, district secretary-treasurer, and Rita Miller, district auditor, took their oaths of office. They became the first women to hold office at the district level in the 96-year history of the miners' union. The applause was long and loud as first Huitt and then Miller stepped forward to take their oaths.

Their election is a step forward for both the union movement and the fight for women's rights. Although women make up only about 2 percent of the UMWA membership, the experiences they have had in fighting to get and keep coal mining jobs is an important one. And many women miners have become UMWA activists. This fact was recognized by the District 22 membership, which is spread across Arizona, Utah, and Wyoming.

Huitt's and Miller's election victories in February were hailed by women's rights figures nationwide.

Betty Jean Hall, executive director of the Coal Employment Project (CEP), which has led the fight for women to enter the mining industry, said, "We are elated with Huitt's victory. We are also elated with the election of Rita Miller. The victory is a milestone."

Hall attended the swearing-in ceremonies as a guest, as did Cosby Totten and June Rostan of the CEP national staff. In their inaugural addresses, both Huitt and Miller paid tribute to the value of the support that the CEP has given to them and to all women miners over the years. Both remain active members of the Lady Miners of Utah, and Miller currently serves as president of the group, which is the local CEP affiliate.

Both Huitt and Miller pledged to do the best job possible for the union. "Being the first woman to hold UMWA district office is important to me, but being a member of

this union is more important to me," said Huitt.

The following are excerpts from an interview conducted by the *Militant* with Huitt and Miller on April 1.

* * *

Question. Could you describe your background and how you got involved with the UMWA and the CEP?

Miller. I have had quite a few ancestors that worked as underground miners, and I found that if I wanted to make a good living for my family it was a good thing to go into.

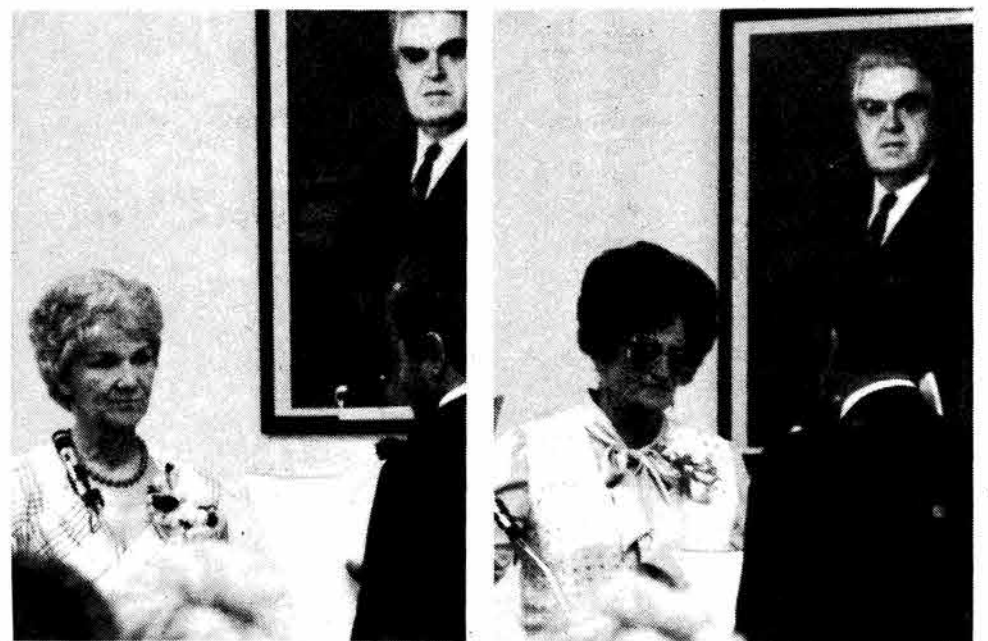
I picked out a union mine to go into, and I have been there since 1979. With all of the things going on in the union, and with the district auditor's job opening up, I decided I would like to take the auditor's job to get involved in District 22.

I had been involved before with the Lady Miners as well as with safety in the mine. I feel it is a very important role for us to get more involved in. What we do now will make it better both for us now and for whoever comes into the mines in the future.

Huitt. I grew up in a union family. My grandfather was one of the charter members of the UMWA, and I've had strong union ties throughout my life. Naturally, when women started working in the coal mines I became interested in it. I was very interested in the CEP because they were there to help us organize as women, to help us realize that we have certain rights and obligations to the union and to each other. I felt it was a very vital and important thing to be part of.

Q. What made you decide to run for office? Where did your support come from and why do you think the UMWA members elected you?

Huitt. I decided to run for office when I became aware that Lee Hatton [former District 22 secretary-treasurer] was not going to run for re-election. I felt like I was qual-



Joy Huitt (left) being sworn in as secretary-treasurer of United Mine Workers District 22. Rita Miller (right) is new district auditor.

ified and had good basic experience with the CEP in handling the money and doing books and the type of skills that a secretary would need.

But most of all, my husband and I had gained a lot from the union, from being union members. We were able to give our children a good living and good medical coverage — all of the things the UMWA does for working people. So I felt that I could give back some of the things that the union has done for me by serving as an officer.

I felt the time was right and that the rank and file was ready to consider people on the basis of their qualifications rather than if they were male or female. And I was right. They were willing to support a woman who was a strong UMWA person.

Miller. I was unopposed in the race, but I still had a lot of support from the district

and from my local.

Q. How do you view the relations between the CEP and the UMWA?

Huitt. To those people that try to separate CEP from the union, I just tell them that our interests are one and the same, that we are working for basically the same thing. CEP encourages people to be strong union members.

Our work went hand in hand with the parental leave [the demand of the union that parents of a newborn or a newly adopted child be granted unpaid leave], with the safety issues, with all of the things whereby the coal companies are trying to gut our contract. The CEP was working hand in hand with the union on these things. So actually there was no real separation between the two.

N.Y. anti-apartheid march set June 14

Continued from back page

banners that say 'Boycott South Africa not Nicaragua,' we welcome them. If they are willing to march behind banners that say 'No aid to the contras in Nicaragua or Angola,' we say again, we welcome them."

Robinson has spoken out numerous times against U.S. intervention in Central America. The demonstration will take place around the time a vote will be taken in Congress on Reagan's proposed \$100-million aid package to the contras in Nicaragua.

With the recent escalation of the U.S.-backed war against Nicaragua, a broad antiwar contingent in the June 14 march would provide an important opportunity to speak out against U.S. intervention.

The Toronto Anti-Intervention Coalition, which will be sponsoring a demonstration in Canada on June 14, will be demanding "Embargo South Africa; aid Nicaragua; U.S. out of Central America!"

Many activities have already taken place that show the potential for building the June action.

For instance, rally supporters at an aerospace plant on Long Island report that they sold more than 100 June 14 buttons.

A conference at the Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem sponsored by the Council of Churches of the City of New York decided to support the June 14 action as well as call for other actions by the church "to hasten apartheid's demise."

The church conference delegates urged congregations to begin organizing for June 14 by visiting congressional representatives, encouraging them to press for comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa. They pledged to contact churches all over the country about the action.

More than 100 people turned out for the first fund-raising event for June 14, which

was held at Auto Workers District 65 headquarters April 26. The event included African dancers, singers, a poetry reading by Amiri Baraka, and jazz and blues groups.

The evening speakers included T. Kuiri of the South West Africa People's Organization, Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins, Brooklyn Assemblyman Roger Green, who is chair of the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, and Cleveland Robinson. Speakers denounced the U.S. bombing of Libya and the U.S.-organized war against Nicaragua.

The New York chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists hosted its annual award dinner, with Randall Robinson, executive director of TransAfrica, as guest speaker.

The June 14 march and rally was the center of the event. Jim Bell, head of the New York Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and coordinator of June 14, explained that "the question of South Africa continues to be of central concern to Black labor and the community in general. CBTU remains strongly committed to the struggle to end apartheid and to build the movement needed to get the government to stop its support of the apartheid system." Black trade unionists and others have been fighting for more than eight years to get the State of New York to divest from companies that do business with South Africa.

Randall Robinson urged Blacks to march on June 14: "As children of Africa, the blood that unites us is so much thicker than the water that divides us."

Buttons and leaflets for the march and rally are available, and contributions are urgently needed to build the action.

To contribute and get more information, contact the New York Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council, 13 Astor Pl., New York, N.Y. 10003 or call (212) 673-5120, Ext. 390.



June 14 action will be important demonstration of opposition to U.S. ties with apartheid regime.

New Jersey students protest racist attacks

BY ELSA BLUM

NEWARK — Three hundred students rallied at Seton Hall University to protest the university administration's disciplinary action against victims of a racist attack.

The May 2 protest stemmed from an incident in which about 30 whites assaulted 10 members of Omega Psi Phi, a Black fraternity. The attack occurred on April 18.

The administration expelled one victim, Omega Psi Phi President Eric Menal, for having used force against attackers who were armed with baseball bats. Other victims were severely disciplined.

Seton Hall officials claim their actions were evenhanded, since they also expelled one white student.

The 100-member Black Student Union at Seton Hall has led a campaign to reveal the truth about the racist attack and the unfair disciplining of the victims and to expose the administration's racist practices in student and faculty recruitment. They are also demanding the reinstatement of Menal.

The BSU held a news conference and public meetings on the issue and won support from leaders of the Black Organization of Students at Rutgers University in Newark. The Upsala College student support committee for the striking maintenance

workers at Upsala is also backing this antiracist fight.

When the Seton Hall administration set up a university task force that excluded the BSU's point of view, the Black student group organized a boycott of it.

Just before the May 2 rally, campus officials threatened to rescind permission for the action and threatened to break off further discussions. But BSU supporters successfully insisted on their right to protest.

Among the participants at the march and rally were several dozen white students.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Newark, Ruth Nebbia, joined the protest.

A statement by Nebbia distributed at the rally demanded reinstatement for Eric Menal, as well as justice for Michael Harris, a Black Newark youth killed two weeks ago by policeman Wayne Paterno.

"The attacks on the Black students at Seton Hall and the response of the university administration, like the refusal to jail Paterno, convey the idea to racists that they can act with little fear of prosecution. Anti-racist marches and rallies like this one are an important way to mobilize the Black community and its allies — Latinos, churches, campuses, and trade unions — to demand that the government take action to defend Black rights."

Scoreboard

City	Pledged	Paid
Atlanta	1595	1295
Baltimore	1124	259
Birmingham	1740	475
Boston	4345	3070
Capital District, N.Y.	870	445
Charleston, W. Va.	1830	1280
Chicago	4460	2930
Cincinnati	1580	1010
Cleveland	1400	660
Dallas	4035	2452
Denver	2020	470
Detroit	4315	2036
Greensboro, N.C.	1405	973
Houston	7770	3700
Kansas City	2560	1795
Los Angeles	8456	3486
Louisville	1012	567
Miami	1440	800
Milwaukee	1245	770
Morgantown, W. Va.	1925	1480
New Orleans	3760	2455
New York	9990	6905
Newark	6245	5480
Oakland	4780	2395
Philadelphia	3350	1770
Phoenix	1060	333
Pittsburgh	1455	860
Portland	1866	1600
Price, Utah	775	550
Salt Lake City	2075	1325
San Diego	2210	1880
San Francisco	6305	4365
San Jose	4750	3035
Seattle	2975	1925
St. Louis	4552	2037
Tidewater, Va.	590	270
Toledo	1930	1275
Twin Cities	4575	2825
Washington D.C.	2895	2290
Other cities	5066	4791
Total pledged	126,331	
Total paid		78,319

\$100,000 Socialist Publication Fund

On March 15 we launched the Socialist Publication Fund with the goal of raising \$100,000 by May 10.

A major purpose of the fund is to help finance publication of the *Militant*, our Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, and other socialist publication projects.

Checks should be made out to:
Socialist Publication Fund
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Enclosed is my contribution to the Socialist Publication Fund of \$_____.

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Pathfinder Press announces 1918 German revolution book

Pathfinder Press has announced that it will distribute the second volume of the series, *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*, by the end of this month.

The new volume, *The German Revolution and the Debate on Soviet Power: Documents 1918-1919, Preparing the Founding Congress*, addresses the most fundamental political question of our time, a question placed on the historical agenda by the October 1917 revolution in Russia: will state power remain in the hands of the landlords and capitalists — a small, exploiting minority — or will it be conquered by the exploited producers — the working class and small farmers?

This question was posed in Germany in November 1918 when the German working people formed revolutionary councils across the country and toppled the German Empire. That brought Germany's participation in World War I abruptly to an end, halting the first world inter-imperialist slaughter.

The new volume is divided into two parts. The first focuses on the German revolution and the founding of the German Communist Party. The second takes up the international debate on Soviet power, as well as the preparations by the Bolsheviks in Soviet Russia for the March 1919 founding congress of the Communist International.

The goal of the Communist International (also known as the Comintern or the Third International) was to help build and politically train Marxist parties capable of leading the workers and exploited farmers in the overturn of capitalist rule in their coun-

tries — that is, to advance the worldwide revolution against imperialist oppression and for a new, socialist order.

Most of the record of the Comintern's early revolutionary years is not available in English. To fill this gap, the Anchor Foundation is publishing this series of volumes that will include the documentary record of the Comintern when its policies were shaped by V.I. Lenin and the team of Marxists that he led.

John Riddell, editor of the series, notes that with the exception of the articles by Lenin, 65 percent of the documents in the new volume have never before been published in English.

Next week's *Militant* will publish an article from the new book in our magazine supplement, *International Socialist Review*. It is by Comintern leader Gregory Zinoviev and is titled "The Hour for a Genuine Communist International Has Struck." Last July the *ISR* reprinted documents from the first part of the new book.

The new volume, as well as the first volume, *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International; Documents: 1907-1916, The Preparatory Years*, is distributed by Pathfinder Press.

The German Revolution and the Debate on Soviet Power: Documents 1918-1919 is available at a special pre-publication price of \$9.00. The regular price will be \$12.95. This offer is good through June 14. It can be ordered by mail from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014 (please send \$.75 for handling), or purchased at the end of May at Pathfinder bookstores listed in the directory on page 16.

As of May 8, we have collected \$78,319. With a special effort by Socialist Fund supporters in last days of drive, we can meet our goal.

Cover-up at Three Mile Island

How Washington reacted to a nuclear disaster

BY TOM LEONARD

Washington has cynically used the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant to launch an anti-Soviet propaganda campaign. At the heart of Washington's attack is criticism of the Soviet government's handling of the disaster.

But it would be hard to top the U.S. government's campaign of lies and cover-up when a near meltdown occurred at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Middletown, Pennsylvania, in 1979. Three Mile Island was the worst nuclear power plant accident in the United States so far.

So blatant were Washington's lies that a New York Times/CBS survey at the time of the disaster found only 20 percent of those polled felt "public officials have been honest in telling the public all they know about the danger from the accident."

The disaster began March 28, 1979. The first radioactive emissions from the plant began at 3:00 a.m. But plant managers did not notify the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or government officials for over three hours. As a result no one knows to this day how much radioactivity escaped during that time.

At 6:50 a.m. Metropolitan Edison, which operates Three Mile Island, was forced to declare a general emergency as conditions in the plant worsened, but it denied there was a problem with radiation leaking from the plant. It continued this lie until 10:00 a.m., when Metropolitan Edison finally admitted to a "small leak."

Later that same morning Lt. Gov. William Scranton, Jr., joined the cover-up. He too admitted there was a release of radiation to the environment but told reporters, "There is and was no danger to public health and safety." But 15 minutes after his announcement the plant again began venting radioactive steam into the environ-

ment.

The night of March 29, plant managers also dumped 400,000 gallons of radioactive water resulting from the accident into the Susquehanna River. It was at this time that a member of the NRC repeated the lie that "the danger is over for the people off-site."

When asked about these new emissions and dumping of radioactive waste the following morning, March 30, the plant's management continued to cover up the danger. For example, when Metropolitan Edison's vice-president John Herbein was pressed for an answer by reporters, he arrogantly replied, "I don't know why we need to tell you anything we do."

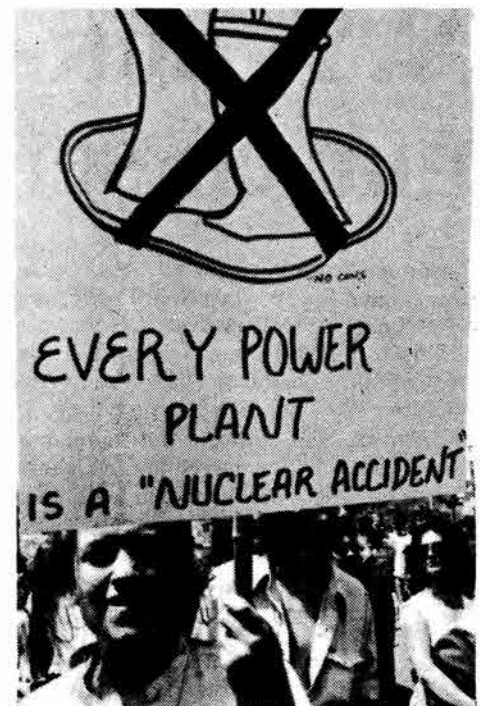
That same morning three NRC commissioners were meeting to evaluate what was happening inside Three Mile Island. But their worries of a nuclear core meltdown

were not made public until a partial transcript of their meeting was published nearly three weeks later on April 14. All of them confessed to ignorance about what the plant's managers were doing to contain the potential meltdown. Commissioner Joseph Hendrie complained, "We are operating almost totally in the blind."

Another meeting participant, Roger Mattson, was connected to the meeting by a phone from inside the plant. He complained about "too little information, too late unfortunately, and it is the same way every partial meltdown has gone."

It was March 30 by the time the NRC admitted in public that a meltdown was possible. However, after consulting with the White House, a press release was agreed to that played down the seriousness of the situation.

Continued on Page 19



Militant/Lou Howort
One of the 125,000 anti-nuclear energy demonstrators who participated in the May 6, 1979, march on Washington.

Why nuclear power plants are unsafe

The following are excerpts from the pamphlet, *What Working People Should Know About the Dangers of Nuclear Power*, written by Fred Halstead in 1979. It is available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Price is 95 cents. Please send \$7.75 extra for postage and handling. Or you can pick it up at the nearest Pathfinder Bookstore (see directory on page 16).

Nuclear power's special danger to health, safety, and even life itself can be summed up in one word: *radiation*.

Nuclear radiation consists of tiny particles or rays which are spit out, or emitted, by the atoms of certain chemical elements, such as uranium or radium. These elements, which are found in nature, are said to be radioactive. In addition, large quantities of other radioactive materials are produced inside the reactor of a nuclear plant. All these radioactive materials, both natural and manufactured, emit radiation. These particles or rays, like tiny bullets, tear through living tissue. They ionize it—that is, they change the electrical charge of its atoms and molecules. Hence nuclear radiation is a form of ionizing radiation. It can kill a living cell immediately, or it can disrupt its normal life cycle.

At very high levels, radiation can kill an animal or human being outright by killing masses of cells in vital organs. But even the lowest levels can do serious damage. There is no level of radiation that is completely safe.

The tiny bullets of radiation can disrupt

the chromosomes of the reproductive cells. Gross birth defects can occur at higher dose levels. Even at lower levels, cell damage can result in increased incidents in later generations of diabetes and cancer, and lower resistance to disease in general.

All the more reason the truth about radiation produced by nuclear power and nuclear weapons should be told. Working people should understand all that is known about it. It is too serious a matter to be trusted to company-controlled safety people and company-dominated government agencies.

There are three different kinds of dangerous particles and rays that are emitted by radioactive elements. They are referred to by the first three letters in the Greek alphabet: alpha, beta, and gamma. Alpha particles are relatively large. They do not penetrate very far and can be stopped by a piece of paper or by thin metal, but do great damage to the living cells they hit.

Betas are much smaller, penetrate further than alphas, but do less damage. When radioactive atoms emitting alpha or beta particles enter the body, either through breathing, or a cut, or with food or water, they bombard the cells immediately surrounding them. Therefore dust or water containing alpha or beta emitters is very dangerous.

The third type of dangerous radiation is the gamma ray, which is like the X ray. Gamma rays are very penetrating. While they produce less concentrated damage, they can reach reproductive and blood-

forming tissues, causing leukemia and genetic defects.

The nuclear industry, and the government agencies connected with it, try to use the fact that background radiation exists in nature as an excuse for the much larger and much more concentrated amounts that are produced by the nuclear power and nuclear weapons industry.

They tell us we shouldn't worry so much about manufactured radiation. There is a certain amount of radiation in nature anyway, so manufactured radiation is no big thing to worry about, they say. One of the things they don't explain is how much radiation nuclear reactors produce, compared to the amount which occurs naturally.

A single commercial nuclear reactor that has been running for a year or so contains far more dangerous radioactive material than exists on earth naturally. And there are 72 commercial reactors in the U.S. alone, plus roughly 200 military reactors. That is something to worry about.

The natural rocks containing uranium and radium are very low level radioactive material. But pure radium is very high level and very deadly. From the time Marie Curie discovered radium near the end of the last century until the beginning of the atomic era, the total amount of high-level radioactive material on earth amounted to a few pounds.

This was used in research, medicine, and certain industrial processes. Its amount was small enough to be manageable, though accidents and abuses did occur, in part through ignorance. (Marie Curie herself died of radium poisoning.) But nowadays, a single average-size nuclear reactor—civilian or military—produces thousands of pounds of extremely high-level radioactive material, in waste alone, every year.

The nuclear industry and the government assure us that all this deadly radioactivity is, or can be, safely contained. The truth is that it is impossible to perfectly contain such huge amounts of radioactive material. Some of it does get out, and it increases the background radiation and its harmful effects. In addition, the wholesale release of these radioactive poisons in a major accident at a nuclear plant would be catastrophic.

It is important for every one of us to get involved in the fight against nuclear power. Unionists can help out by distributing pamphlets such as this one and by asking their locals to discuss the question. We can get in touch with local antinuclear groups and become involved in their activities.

The urgency of this can be seen most clearly when we realize that the people who have been so callous and deceitful on nuclear power are the very same people who have control over the use of nuclear bombs, which are even deadlier means of destruction.

Working people have no interest in either nuclear power or making war. We do have an interest in clean air, job safety, and—if you please—in the continuation of the human race. If we get organized, we have the power to do something about it.



'IP' reports from Philippine countryside

The overthrow of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos has had only a limited impact so far in the countryside. The big landlords who supported Marcos retain much of their wealth and power, while the exploited peasants and farm workers continue to toil in poverty. The rural masses have begun to organize, but face constant repression from the military and the landlords' goon squads.

The May 5 and May 19 issues of *Intercontinental Press* feature firsthand reports from the Philippine countryside. Correspondents Deb Shnookal and Russell Johnson visited the sugar-producing island of Negros as guests of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW).

"Social crisis and ferment run deep on Negros," Shnookal and Johnson write. "The strength of the NFSW reflects the growing consciousness and organization of the rural masses."

The sugar workers are fighting for

higher wages, better conditions, and the right to farm unused land to grow food for themselves and their families. They are also linking up with peasants, urban workers, and fishermen to press for greater democratic rights and the purging of pro-Marcos officials from their positions.

Intercontinental Press is a biweekly that carries more articles, documents, and special features on world politics—from Europe to Oceania and from the Middle East to Central America—than we have room for in the *Militant*. Subscribe now.

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U.S. nukes safe? Facts tell different story

Five examples of how 'Western experts' are lying about dangers

"Western experts" on nuclear safety confided to the *New York Times* that the Soviet Union assertedly has the worst nuclear safety planning of any nation, bar none.

Among the safety problems cited in a May 1 article were the following: hazardous design, reduced safety to save money, inadequate measures to contain radiation, inadequate evacuation planning, failure to plan for worst-case accidents, placing nuclear plants in populated areas, and lack of public scrutiny of safety.

Thumb through recent newspaper items about the U.S. nuclear system and you realize that the above list fits exactly, point for point.

Item: "In Hanford, Washington, the Department of Energy operates a graphite-moderated nuclear reactor similar in design to the ill-fated Soviet plant at Chernobyl. According to government documents, it suffers from a predictable and potentially dangerous distortion of its graphite core. DOE officials have elected to try to repair the 23-year-old Hanford reactor, rather than build a new, \$4 billion reactor as a departmental advisory panel recommended four years ago." — *Washington Post*, May 2.

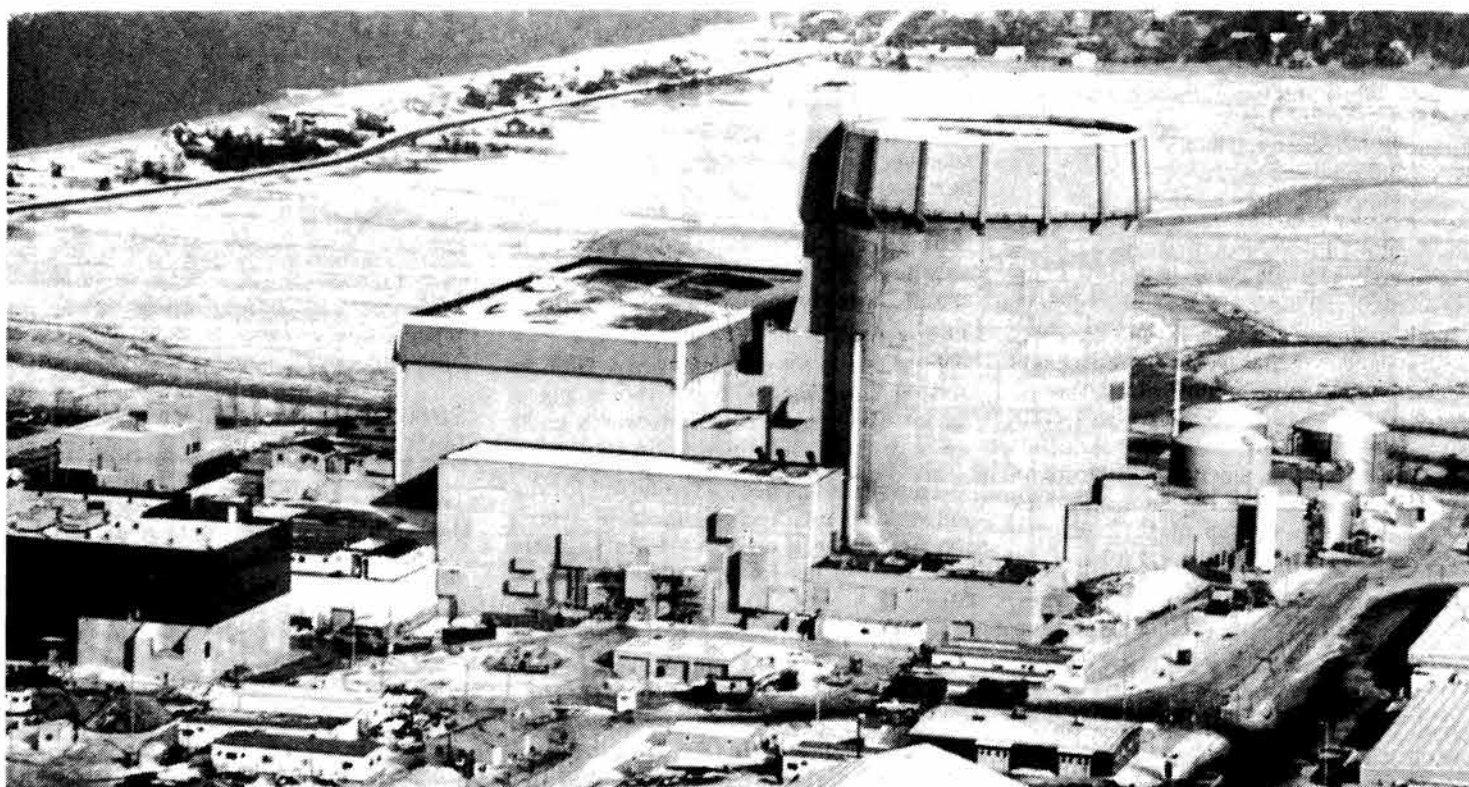
Item: "Safety suffered at commercial nuclear reactors in the United States last year because of broken emergency equipment, inadequately trained operators, badly designed or maintained machinery, management weakness, and insufficient attention to detail, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report released today." — *New York Times*, May 4.

Item: "Of America's 115 large nuclear reactors, nine share characteristics with the runaway plant in the Soviet Union..."

"Eight of the similar American reactors are military or research units managed by the Department of Energy. . . . The Energy Department has rejected full containment buildings for its reactors, saying that they are not cost effective and that studies show sufficiently low risk." — *New York Times*, May 4.

Item: "Last June an Ohio nuclear power plant suffered a series of operator errors and equipment malfunctions that produced what Jesse Ebersole, a senior federal atomic-safety adviser, calls '40 minutes of chaos and fast-approaching disaster' before the reactor was finally brought under control."

"Five months later, in November, an atomic plant in southern California flirted with a serious overheating of the reactors' nuclear-fuel core. An investigation found that five important valves in the cooling system had broken down during the previous 12 months and the failures had gone undetected by plant personnel."



U.S. "experts" claim that unlike Soviet Union, U.S. nuclear plants are not located in major population centers. Above, Shoreham nuclear plant in Long Island, New York, one of world's most densely populated areas.

"In December, a nuclear reactor near Sacramento, California, went through a severe temperature gyration and dumped hundreds of gallons of radioactive cooling water inside the plant. It was only the latest in a series of problems at the facility that have been traced to poor training and equipment. . . ."

"There are signs that at least before the Russian accident, the commitment to safety has been waning in the government

and the nuclear industry. . . . Critics charge that a recent rule by the NRC [Nuclear Regulatory Commission] on making modifications to existing reactors is weighted toward how much a change will cost rather than how much it will improve safety." — *Wall Street Journal*, May 5.

Item: "Fourteen of the 17 non-Communist countries with operating nuclear power plants have had 'potentially significant' nuclear accidents that may not have

been publicly reported, according to a six-month-old government survey made public today.

"The report . . . originally classified to prevent it from being made public, said 151 'significant nuclear safety incidents' had occurred in 14 unnamed Western countries from 1971 to 1984. . . . The original report's list of the 151 nuclear incidents by country, type, and date was deleted." — *New York Times*, May 1. — H.R.

U.S. lies follow USSR nuke disaster

Continued from front page

sion," he said, "a chemical explosion. . . . [t]he coincidence of several highly improbable and therefore unforeseen failures."

At the same press conference, Yevgeny Vorobyev, a health official, reported the initial toll.

Two workers at the plant were killed, he said, one from heavy radiation burns, the other from falling debris.

He said that 204 people were hospitalized for varying degrees of radiation exposure. Of these, 18 have been diagnosed as suffering extreme radiation exposure.

It was also reported that an unspecified number of livestock were killed. From the accounts here, it was not clear if they died

of radiation exposure or were slaughtered as contaminated.

The deputy prime minister, Shcherbina, disclosed that evacuation of the area had been delayed 36 hours and indicated this had happened because local officials initially underestimated the scope of the accident.

"The local experts," he said, "didn't have a true assessment of the accident."

When the evacuation was ordered, about 40,000 people were evacuated by a fleet of buses in two hours and 20 minutes, Shcherbina said.

A number of the buses came in from Kiev, capital of the Soviet Ukraine, about 70 miles from Pripyat, center of the evacuation area and the town where the Chernobyl power plant workers live.

Shcherbina said the explosion occurred on Saturday, April 26, at 1:23 a.m. The evacuation took place on Sunday afternoon.

At the press conference, a Soviet foreign office official noted that "immediately after we learned about the accident" a message was sent to Hans Blix, general director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, a world body linked to the United Nations.

The next day, Monday, the public announcement was made.

As was to be expected, winds have carried radiation from the stricken reactor to various parts of the globe.

In Sweden, where fallout was first detected, officials said on May 1 that the radiation level was essentially back to normal.

In Austria, officials said radioactivity was treble normal, and in Italy it was reported as slightly less than double the usual amount.

In France and Germany, amounts described as minor were detected.

In Denmark, Britain, Belgium, Greece, and the Netherlands, readings were reported as normal.

In this country, a federal task force reported fallout at ground level but said the amount "posed no danger to residents."

Such reassurances should not be given undue weight. It is a scientific fact that there is no "safe" level of radiation, no matter how small.

While U.S. officials tended to downplay the effect of fallout, they had no hesitation to rush in with baseless and exaggerated assessments of what was happening in the Soviet Union.

When Moscow reported two dead, Kenneth Adelman, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency director, rushed into print with the assertion that the figure was "preposterous."

Charles Redman, a State Department spokesperson, added that hundreds of deaths were possible.

Redman may have gotten his information from the *New York Times*. That morning, it had reported information supplied by a nameless "Dutch radio operator," who advised he had "intercepted" a message from a Soviet ham broadcaster:

"We got to know that not one, but two reactors are melted down, destroyed and burning. Many, many hundreds are dead and wounded by radiation, but maybe many many more."

The *Times* also featured that UPI story on the alleged toll of more than 2,000. That story was attributed to a longtime UPI news source, a Kiev resident, who "has never proved to be unreliable."

The same, always reliable source also asserted that the masses of dead were being buried in a nearby radioactive waste dump.

All of this reckless rumor-mongering is intended to inflame public opinion against the Soviet Union and to divert attention from the real issue involved — that all nuclear power plants, including the ones in the United States, are dangerous. Anyone who thinks not should look back at Three Mile Island.

Particularly reprehensible is the mock horror of U.S. officials at the Soviet failure to evacuate the Chernobyl area in the proper time.

At Three Mile Island, there was a partial meltdown, and a catastrophic total meltdown was but an hour away. With full knowledge of that terrible danger, U.S. officials brushed aside expert advice and refused to order an evacuation of the area — not in 36 hours, not at all.

Like Three Mile Island, Chernobyl is an urgent argument that all nuclear plants should be shut down.



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Guilford rail strike enters third month

BY PAT MAYBERRY

ALBANY, N.Y. — The rail strike against Guilford Transportation Industries by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees has entered its third month with no resolution in sight.

Guilford, owned by Timothy Mellon of the Pittsburgh banking family, has made it clear that it is not interested in negotiating a fair contract with job security provisions.

Guilford operates the Main Central, Boston & Maine, and Delaware & Hudson railroads. Employment on the Delaware & Hudson has dwindled from 2,000 to 1,100. Now, Guilford wants further wage concessions and wants members of all crafts to pay 50 percent of their health and welfare benefits. This is on top of a 12 percent wage decrease workers already took.

In a new development, all employees were informed that if they did not report for work on April 25, they would be fired and replaced by scabs.

All rail unions on the three railroads immediately went out on strike: United Transportation Union, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and Brotherhood of Railroad & Airline Clerks.

A spirited picket line of 250 persons marched around the Watervliet, New York, rail yard. Union pickets also shut down Conrail's yards in the southern tier of New York from Albany to Buffalo.

The next evening, a judge ruled that the Guilford threat to dismiss strikers was not valid. The court also ordered all picketing, except by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, suspended.

Management and scabs crossing the lines at various yards have shown total disrespect for the lives of the pickets and the people in the communities. In Mechanicville, New York, a picket was run over by

the terminal superintendent, Pat Little, who was arrested on third-degree assault and battery.

In Fort Edward, New York, a picket was run over by a scab entering the yard. After numerous phone calls to the police department, the cops finally showed up three hours later to arrest the scab for assault. It only took the police five minutes, however, to arrest two pickets on the line for allegedly damaging the cars of scabs.

In Maine, a former Delaware & Hudson general superintendent — who is not a locomotive engineer — ran over a child while operating a train, severing her legs.

This strike has been a big lesson for the railworkers involved — most of whom have never been on strike before — that there is no justice for workers in the United States.

As one railworker in Watervliet said, "The courts, the cops, and the government are on the side of the company. GTI wants to run the largest nonunion railroad in the country, and Ronald Reagan wants to starve the workers out and eventually run the largest nonunion country."

There has been tremendous interest in the Hormel strike by Local P-9 of the United Food and Commercial Workers among striking railworkers. They see their situations as similar. Rail workers want to speak to as many union locals as possible about the strike, as Local P-9 is doing. Many expressed interest in adopting a P-9 family after the strike is over. One railworker said, "If a national rail strike is not called or other pressure put on Guilford and Reagan, someone is going to have to adopt us." Meanwhile spirits are still high, with very few workers crossing the lines.

Contributions can be sent to: D & H Strike Coalition, Holiday Inn, Room 130, Menands, N.Y.

Chicago Steelworkers continue strike at Wire Cloth Products

BY JAN VASQUEZ
AND GAIL SKIDMORE

BELLWOOD, Ill. — Fifty striking steelworkers continue to walk a picket line that was set up more than seven months ago against Wire Cloth Products. In September 1985, by a nearly unanimous vote, some 80 members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 7240 rejected a contract offer that threatened seniority rights and drastically increased out-of-pocket money for medical benefits. The company also demanded that if a minimum number of days were not worked in a year, workers' vacations would be denied. In a company where cyclical layoffs are the norm, even workers with years of seniority stood to lose their vacations.

Since the strike began, the company has refused to negotiate. Soon after workers walked out, the company sent letters "inviting" strikers to return to their jobs, insisting they'd been given the final offer in pre-strike negotiations. But most strikers stayed out, and laid-off workers, retirees, and some fired workers joined the picket line.

Over time, some strikers gave up and joined other scabs who'd been solicited through weekly company news ads offering "the job opportunity of a lifetime." Other union supporters were forced to find jobs elsewhere, but the basic strike core continues to picket six days a week.

When 200 steelworkers from USWA District 31 joined the line early one morning, several strikers were arrested. The court immediately responded to this union solidarity by issuing a restraining order limiting pickets to five at each gate. But supporters from USWA locals and other unions continue to join the picket line. They congregate in the strike headquarters, which is in the home of strike leader Willie Mae Nunn, who lives across the street from the plant. She has turned her basement into a soup and coffee kitchen open 12 hours a day.

The latest move to break the union was a

decertification vote initiated by the company and a former striker who became a scab early in the strike.

The USWA sent letters to workers inside and outside the plant, urging them to vote for the union. The company responded with a barrage of letters urging an antiunion vote.

One company letter said, "As you know, April 15, 1986, [tax deadline] is the deadline for your commitment to your country. On April 14, 1986, there is a deadline for a commitment to yourself." The company letters reprimanded scabs and strikers alike for letting the union "do your speaking for you and taking two hours of your monthly pay."

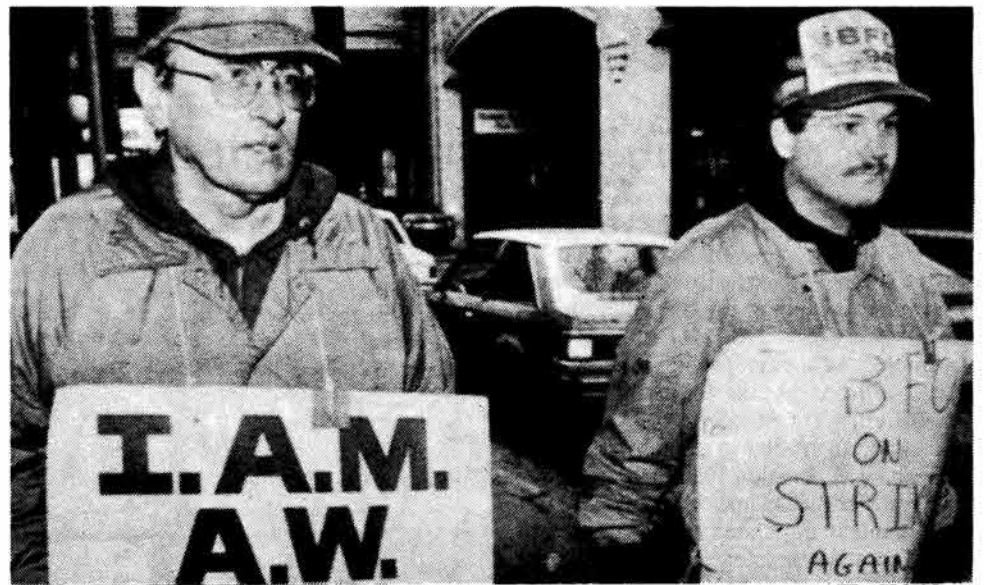
On the day of the decertification election, strikers organized cars to get all strikers to the booths on time, and they brought food and friends to help celebrate a hoped-for victory.

The outcome of the election is not yet decided. While the vote was close — 49 pronoun to 54 against — 28 uncounted votes are still being challenged. Union members are optimistic they will win since many of the contested votes are pronoun ballots.

Asked why the decertification was important to fight, John, one of the daily pickets, said, "We've got a chance of getting back inside. We've got to fight. I'm too damn old to go any place else. It's not a lost cause. As long as we've got a chance, I'm going to be out here. I want the security the union can give, not just the money. I can't live day to day not knowing if they'll kick me out and give my job to some new guy. You call it seniority. I call it security. The Hormel guys [meatpackers' Local P-9] are fighting for the same thing."

Russell chimed in: "They think they can do like Reagan did to the air controllers. With so many of us losing and the farmers losing their land, Reagan keeps giving money to foreign armies. I hate to say it,

Continued on Page 13



Striking members of Machinists union and of Firemen and Oilers union picket Boston's North Station.

Conn: Colt Auto Workers walk out over takebacks

BY ELLEN BERMAN

BOSTON — Members of United Auto Workers Local 376 walked off the job at the Colt Firearms division in Hartford, Connecticut, last January 24. The 1,100 union members had been working without a contract since April 1985. The strike was provoked by company demands for deep concessions in a proposed three-year contract.

The last company offer was for no wage increase in the first year of the contract and 4 percent increases in each remaining year. Colt also demanded that workers contribute — for the first time — toward medical insurance premiums, which have previously been paid by the company.

During negotiations, Local 376 negotiators had agreed to take concessions. According to local President Philip Wheeler, "We've made 30 or 40 changes in our economic position since June, but the company hasn't changed once."

Wheeler pointed out that union negotiators had agreed to wage and cost-of-living concessions for the first and second years of the contract. They had also agreed to union members paying part of the premium for medical insurance. In return, however, union negotiators demanded that the company change the current insurance company, which has resisted paying workers' medical claims.

During the months they worked without a contract, Local 376 members were harassed and victimized by a company campaign to undermine gains made in previous contracts. Voluntary overtime was arbitrarily ended, and nearly half the workforce was

hit with three-day suspensions when they refused overtime. Paycheck deductions for union dues were halted, and the company denied workers the right to meet with union representatives on the job.

Colt management also unilaterally dropped workers' dependents from medical insurance coverage unless workers picked up the payments themselves.

In the face of this company attack, union members were more than ready to strike. When the strike call came at 11:00 a.m. on January 24, it only took 10 minutes for all the workers to clear out of the plant.

During the 13-week strike, Local 376 has gotten broad support from community organizations and other unions in the area. This included two strike support rallies attended by hundreds.

Colt began hiring scabs just days after the strike began. So far, about 400 of them have been crossing picket lines under police protection. Part of this "protection" includes cop violence against striking workers. During a recent strike solidarity rally, for example, cops using nightsticks attacked, injuring at least two demonstrators.

In response, a coalition of organizations supporting the strike has been circulating a statement condemning the police violence.

Colt's union-busting attack does not begin and end in Hartford. The company has 18 plants in the United States and Canada employing 9,000 workers. According to union officials, the company is pressing for concessions at all of them. It has already succeeded in breaking the union at the Colt plant in Burbank, California, which makes aircraft landing gear.

Atlanta: Hormel strikers win support

BY MACEO DIXON

ATLANTA — Striking Minnesota meatpackers won broad support from unionists, students, and anti-apartheid activists during a recent visit here.

As part of their tour, strikers participated in a two-day anti-apartheid conference at Atlanta University, a Black college. Strike supporter John Heegard spoke at the conference rally. Activists in the struggle against the South African apartheid regime bought P-9 buttons and took material about the national boycott of Hormel products the strikers are organizing. The conference voted to support the strike and boycott.

The meatpackers also spoke to a meeting of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Lodge 709 at the huge Lockheed aerospace plant here. Three hundred IAM members donated money after hearing them. The lodge also voted to send \$3,000 to P-9's Adopt-A-Family program.

United Auto Workers Local 10 hosted a press conference for the strikers on March 4. Local 10 officials, as well as officials from auto workers' Local 34 and Jim Guyette, president of the striking meatpackers' local, participated. Guyette said that corporations had united to assault working people and now "it's time for workers to unite against the corporations."

The strikers also spoke to all three meetings of UAW Local 10. The auto workers

donated hundreds of dollars during the meeting, and the local voted to send \$500 to Local P-9.

United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1970 invited the Hormel strikers to its March 6 union meeting. This local had already sent \$200 to Local P-9.

USWA Local 2401 toured the strikers through the Atlantic Steel plant. They passed out literature on the strike and met many workers who supported their cause.

They also spoke to Local 365 of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1644 invited the strikers to address their executive council. The council voted to support the strike and send \$300.

On March 8 more than a hundred supporters of the strike came to a solidarity rally in downtown Atlanta. The featured speaker was P-9 President Jim Guyette.

He was joined by David Ndaba of the African National Congress of South Africa. Ndaba told the rally that he had come to "express firm solidarity with P-9 members, who are in a life and death struggle to save their jobs. P-9's struggle is our struggle. We want to get Hormel and other corporations out of South Africa. Your victory," Ndaba said, "will be our victory. An injury to a worker anywhere is an injury to workers everywhere."

Ottumwa meatpackers set example of labor solidarity

BY TOM JAAX
AND MAGGIE McCRAW

OTTUMWA, Iowa — "The year of union solidarity, 1986," reads the button put out by the fired Hormel workers in this southeast Iowa town. On May 10, workers and farmers from across the Midwest will be putting these words into action by coming here for a rally to support the fired workers' struggle to get their jobs back.

More than 500 workers at Hormel's Ottumwa plant put union solidarity into action January 27 when they individually decided to honor roving picket lines set up by striking meatpackers from Austin, Minnesota. The next day, Hormel fired 507 workers, leaving in the plant only the 150 workers who crossed the strikers' picket lines. Hormel later hired 50 more people.

The fired workers are members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431, an amalgamated local of some 5,000 members from across Iowa.

Hormel fired the Ottumwa workers in violation of their contract that protects their right to honor authorized picket lines.

But Hormel, seizing on the UFCW's top officialdom's refusal to sanction P-9's roving pickets, claimed that the strikers' picket lines were unauthorized and the 507 Ottumwa workers were really involved in a "sympathy strike."

The mass firing outraged working people in Ottumwa. On January 29, Citizens for Ottumwa's Future organized a march of some 2,000 people to protest Hormel's action. In response Hormel threatened to close the slaughtering operation, the largest section of the plant.

Working people in Ottumwa refused to be intimidated. On February 9, more than 3,000 people, including farmers from the surrounding area, participated in a Freedom March against the firings. Many unionists and other townspeople have donated money and food to help the fired workers.

In a recent interview, Bear Martsching, a fired worker, explained that the people of Ottumwa rallied to support the Hormel workers because "they're getting mad at helping these corporations out, then having them hold a club over our heads and saying if you people don't do this we're going to move out of town."

"Farmers," Martsching said, "rallied behind us because we're helping farmers. We're fighting the same thing — corporate greed."

While the UFCW officialdom did not mobilize to support these solidarity actions, they did file grievances shortly after the firings. These officials claimed that if the Austin strikers took down their picket lines Hormel would rehire the workers.

However, when after three weeks P-9 pulled its picket line February 21, and over 600 fired workers and their supporters marched to the plant to reclaim their jobs, Hormel locked the gate and reaffirmed the firings. Nevertheless, the officials of both Local 431 and the UFCW International took no additional steps to defend these workers, leaving it to arbitration. To date, no arbitration hearings have been scheduled on the firings.

After being fired, these workers were denied unemployment benefits. The state government ruled that Hormel had just cause for firing them. Recently the workers won an appeal of that decision and have been awarded benefits retroactive to February 23.

For the first seven weeks after they were fired, these workers received only the aid raised by the Terminated Employees Sup-

port Group. This organization, later renamed the Ottumwa Support Group, is made up of the spouses of the fired workers. It sends out appeals to other local unions, distributes emergency assistance, and organizes a food shelf to provide groceries for the fired workers. The group's goal, leader Sherry Hacker explained, is "to sustain their lives to fight against the corporations." The group works closely with the striking Austin local and its support organizations.

After seven weeks, the UFCW officials began to provide these workers with the \$40-a-week benefits due them under the union's constitution. But instead of these benefits being used to supplement the aid already being organized by the fired workers and their families in the Ottumwa Support Group, the union officialdom set up a new support group, which it runs.

After setting up this second group, these officials sent out letters to local unions telling them to give money to the officials' organization.

The attempt to undercut the workers' support group, Martsching explained, is part of the officialdom's campaign against the striking Austin local. This includes moves to replace the striking local's elected leaders with an appointed trustee. The officials, Martsching has said, want to destroy the solidarity that exists between the Ottumwa workers and Local P-9. They want to isolate the strikers who are setting

Birmingham unions back Hormel fight

BY ELIZABETH FARLEY

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — For seven weeks, striking Minnesota meatpackers and fired meatpackers from Ottumwa, Iowa, have been touring Alabama to win support for their battle against George A. Hormel & Co.

The Minnesota meatpackers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9, have been on strike for nine months. The Ottumwa workers, members of UFCW Local 431, were fired in January by Hormel for honoring P-9's picket lines.

Their tour in Alabama began in March with a one-week stay in Mobile hosted by the Shipbuilders' Union.

On arriving in the Birmingham area, the Hormel workers received a warm welcome from steelworkers at the U.S. Steel Fairfield Works. The meatpackers addressed five locals of the United Steelworkers of America in the Birmingham area, showing a videotape about the strike titled *We're Not Gonna Take It*.

In the course of the six-week tour, more than a dozen locals of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) heard the Hormel workers tell their story.

The meatpackers also addressed the members or executive board meetings of the Communications Workers of America, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Rubber Workers, International Molders and Allied Workers Union, National Association of Letter Carriers, American Postal Workers Union, United Food and Commercial Workers, Public Service Employees Union, United Auto Workers, Ironworkers, Amalgamated Transit Workers Union, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the National Organization for Women.

Many local unions voted to make financial contributions. A total of more than \$10,000 was raised during the tour.

On April 24, UMWA Local 2368 hosted a news conference at its hall in Brookwood to launch the boycott of Hormel products in this area. Representatives of several unions, as well as small businesses in the Brookwood area, came together to show support for the Hormel strikers.

Speakers included Rev. Carter Gaston, Jr., recording secretary of Steelworkers Local 12136; Bobbie Blaylock, Alabama

WE HONOR
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Militant/Tom Jaax

Contingent of fired Hormel workers and their supporters at April 12 solidarity rally for striking meatpackers in Austin, Minnesota.

an example of how to fight the companies. "They're trying to keep people isolated," Martsching said. "It makes their cushy jobs much more cushy when they don't have any waves."

But the strikers from Austin and the Ottumwa fired workers and their supporters are continuing to try to deepen the solidarity first demonstrated January 27. Meetings have been organized for delegations from Austin to discuss the developments in their strike and what to do in the two locals' common struggle against Hormel.

Fired workers have joined strikers on

speaking tours to win support across the country for the struggle against Hormel.

A large delegation of fired workers from Ottumwa participated in the national solidarity actions April 9-12 in Austin. And a delegation of Austin strikers will be in Ottumwa for the May 10 solidarity rally.

Summing up the opinion of many of the fired workers and their supporters about the struggle against Hormel, Robbie Wilson, another leader of the Ottumwa Support Group, explained, "We jumped into the middle of a war... but we've just begun to fight."

Women Miners Support Group; Charles Atmoor, Molders Local 255; and Judy Anderson, National Organization for Women. Television stations present also interviewed owners of a grocery store and restaurant who have pledged to stop selling and serving Hormel products.

Dan Pedersen, speaking for Local P-9, explained why unionists everywhere should support P-9's fight. "Our situation in Austin is by no means an isolated case of a corporation wanting to break a union," he said. "The plague of union-busting has infested virtually thousands of corporations throughout the country."

"Unions must join together to prevent this awful tragedy from happening. We as union brothers and sisters are never hopeless or helpless as long as we have each other."

A high point of the tour for the Austin and Ottumwa workers was walking the picket line with striking members of UMWA locals 1873 and 6969. These miners have been on selective strike for more than 16 months. Even so, Pedersen reported that one of these locals contributed \$100 to P-9's Emergency and Hardship Fund.

The Hormel workers also spent a day in Hale County. Hale, one of the poorest counties in the country, is also the site of

the Farm Fresh catfish processing plant recently purchased by Hormel. The company brags in its magazine that it is helping the mostly Black female workforce at Farm Fresh by raising wages and benefits and improving working conditions.

Refuting Hormel's claim, Pedersen said, "What we saw was another South Africa in Greensboro, Alabama. These workers are paid \$3.35 to \$4.00 an hour. They have no health benefits, no retirement plan, and no union."

The company contracts to buy catfish from local farmers, who are pressured to purchase their feed, chemicals, and equipment from Farm Fresh.

"We were told by one Black catfish farmer how the company clearly discriminates against the 15 percent of farmers who are Black. He said that prices and schedules are juggled to avoid paying the going rate," Pedersen reported.

"It saddens me to think that the present regime of management at Hormel would exploit the workers and farmers who produce the product to this magnitude, all in the name of larger profits," he continued. "Seeing the conditions that exist in Hale County without any union representation whatsoever has strengthened our resolve to fight even harder for a fair and decent contract with the Hormel company."

Mobile: meatpackers win support

MOBILE, Ala. — Dan Pedersen, a striking meatpacker from Minnesota, and Tim Lord, a fired Hormel worker from Ottumwa, Iowa, won support for their struggle against Hormel during a visit here March 17-22.

Pedersen is a member of striking United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9. Lord is a member of UFCW Local 431.

During their visit, the meatpackers spoke to meetings of the Southwest Alabama Labor Council, Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America Local 18, and Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 119. They also spoke at a solidarity rally along with local union officials and Black rights activists.

As part of their visit, Pedersen, Lord,

and their local supporters organized an informational picket line on the strikers' boycott of Hormel products at a key store in a large grocery store chain. During the action, local TV stations interviewed the meatpackers and their supporters about the boycott.

As a result of their visit, Communications Workers of America Local 10907, Fire Fighters Local 1349, Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 119, and United Auto Workers Local 1639 pledged financial support to the striking and fired workers.

The meatpackers also had an opportunity to meet with the presidents of the shipbuilding and printers' unions of Turkey, who were on a fact-finding tour in Mobile. These unionists presented the meatpackers with a letter promising the support of a million and half Turkish unionists.

Labor news in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

Nicaraguan Indian leader backs cease-fire

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "Based on the little I know about Indians in the United States, they are not free. They live on reservations that are jails. We are more free than they are. And we expect to be freer in the future."

Reynaldo Reyes, a Nicaraguan Miskito Indian, was speaking with reporters here in early April. A leader of those Miskitos who took up arms against Nicaragua's revolutionary government in the early 1980s, he is now actively promoting cease-fire pacts with the Sandinistas. He is also participating in the discussions on establishing regional governmental autonomy for Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, where the majority of the country's Indian and Black population lives.

Also known as "Ráfaga" ("burst of gunfire" in Spanish), Reyes is a leader of the group Pro-peace KISAN. This group is made up of armed Miskito Indians who used to be among those fighting against the Nicaraguan army. They have since established cease-fires with the Sandinistas and are working with them to preserve peace in the northern Coast area.

Pro-peace KISAN has a public office in the Hotel Costeño in Puerto Cabezas, the largest city in the Miskito region of the Atlantic Coast. Although this organization observes a cease-fire with Sandinista troops, members remain armed. Reyes said Pro-peace KISAN has eight "semiclandestine bases" in Northern Zelaya province on the Coast.

Denounces kidnapping of Miskitos

Reyes was in Managua to speak at an April 2 news conference denouncing the kidnapping of 2,500 Miskitos from the Río Coco by the group Pro-war KISAN, which refuses to observe a cease-fire. The kidnap victims were taken to Honduras. The evening after the press conference, Reyes met with journalists at the International Press Club to offer his opinions on where the cease-fire stands, what his organization would like to see from the autonomy project, and what in his view has changed on the Atlantic Coast to make possible the current broad dialogue between the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and armed groups like his.

Asked about his political history, Reyes said that when the Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza was overthrown by the Sandinista revolution in 1979, it was a time "of happiness for our people." The Somozaists "have been our executioners for years," he explained.

However, in 1981 Reyes was one of the Miskitos convinced by Steadman Fagoth to go to Honduras and take up arms against the new revolutionary government. Fagoth — who was proven to have been an informer for the Somoza regime — was the leader of MISURA, a Miskito-based armed group that functioned under the domination of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). Washington's principal mercenary army in its five-year war against Nicaragua, the FDN is commanded by ex-members of Somoza's National Guard.

As a member and leader of MISURA, Reyes said he fought the Sandinista army in Northern Zelaya province. He also said that he organized operations to move large numbers of Miskitos from Nicaragua to Honduras. When he saw the conditions they faced in Honduran camps, however, "I promised myself I would never go back to do this kind of mission [again]," he told reporters.

"In 1981, 1982, and 1983," he continued, "the Sandinistas committed mistakes [on the Atlantic Coast]. We made mistakes too."

1983 amnesty

Reyes said that for him the biggest gains since then have been the amnesty decreed by the Nicaraguan government in late 1983 for Miskitos jailed for counterrevolutionary activity; the decision to allow Indians to return to the Río Coco where they had been evacuated by the government in 1982; the project to set up regional autonomy on the Coast; and the cease-fire, which began to be established in May 1985.

He said he considers the cease-fire the most important achievement because "we were exterminating our people. The Sandinistas were killing our people and we were killing our people too. As a leader

I'm equally guilty."

Today, he argues, "there are no Indians in Latin America or the world who have received the autonomy and treatment that the Sandinista government wants to give us. They have allocated millions and millions of córdobas for the [Miskito] people returning to their communities. A few days ago they sent 100,000 pounds of basic grains to us. It seems to us that there is a sensitivity" on the part of the Nicaraguan government.

He pointed out that in Northern Zelaya, the government makes basic foods like rice available to the population at one-quarter the price charged on the Pacific Coast.

On May 17, the first anniversary of the beginning of the cease-fire process, Pro-peace KISAN is promoting a mass meeting of Coast residents to discuss autonomy.

Asked what his group expects from autonomy, Reyes said, "We don't want independence of the Atlantic Coast from Nicaragua."

"We're not demanding another president of Nicaragua, a second president, or a second army. The president of the Republic of Nicaragua will be our president. The army of Nicaragua will be the army. But, to conform with autonomy, we would like an autonomous army in the autonomous region. We want our land. And we want to participate in economic, social, and cultural questions."

Asked what he meant by an "autonomous army," Reyes said, "That depends on the current [Sandinista] army." In the Miskito community of Layasiksa, he said, the residents decided they did not want the Sandinista People's Army providing protection. So Pro-peace KISAN does it. "For all practical purposes, we function as the police right now in Yulú and the other communities where we exist," he added.

There is communication with Sandinista security forces. In Puerto Cabezas, he said, Pro-peace KISAN and the Sandinista Police consult to try to resolve conflicts over arrests and other police action in the Miskito communities. When Sandinista troops are preparing to enter territory where Pro-peace KISAN functions, they notify the Miskito group in advance.

'Perspectiva Mundial' sales in Nicaragua

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The February 3, 1986, special issue of the Spanish-language biweekly *Perspectiva Mundial*, featuring a major article on the freedom struggle in South Africa, was popular at newsstands and bookstores here in Managua. One hundred copies were sold. This is an example of the interest here in *PM*, a socialist magazine published in the United States with broad coverage of the U.S. and international class struggle.

Perspectiva Mundial has been distributed here since the July 1979 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. It is respected for its accurate coverage of the Sandinista revolution.

Readers here are especially interested in *PM*'s international news and analysis, as indicated by the sales of the South Africa issue. The firsthand reports *PM* carries from the Philippines and Haiti are also popular. And *PM*'s regular news of strikes, demonstrations, and other political developments in the United States is followed with interest, including among some unionists here.

Some U.S. antiwar activists who are working here on solidarity projects follow the *Militant* newspaper, both for its coverage of antiwar activities in the United States and, recently, to keep on top of the Hormel meatpackers' strike in Austin, Minnesota.

PM is sold at several major hotels, universities, and bookstores and at newsstands in the Managua international airport and the big inter-city bus terminal at the Roberto Huembes market. Workers, students, and political activists buy between 50 and 100 copies each month. *PM* also has a number of subscribers throughout Nicaragua, and readers often share their copies.

The biweekly international news magazine *Intercontinental Press* is sold along with *PM* in most locations, as well as



Reynaldo Reyes (far right) with Miskito leader, Wilson Fagoth (far left), and José González from Nicaraguan government.

Pro-peace KISAN patrols the areas where it has forces. "If the FDN comes in," he said, "we won't allow it, we'll fight them."

The FDN, he said, "is composed of ex-Somozaists. They want to reconquer power. Between their struggle and ours is a distance as great as between the sky and the earth. They will not get the support of the Miskitos."

"These same people, who now want to be the saviors of the Miskitos, have demonstrated over many years that they are our hangmen. So we don't believe them."

Reyes said his brother, mother, and father are still with the Pro-war KISAN group, which rejects establishing a cease-fire with the Nicaraguan government. Then there are some Miskitos living in Nicaragua, he said, who remain bitter from the experience of being jailed by the Nicaraguan government in the early years of the revolution or are still fearful of the Sandinistas. "But others," he continued, "are working with us. They support us."

He expressed the belief that those Miskitos still fighting the government will be convinced to return to Nicaragua and ac-

cept the cease-fire. He reported that 50 members of Brooklyn Rivera's group MISURASATA — an armed Miskito *contra* group — had abandoned Rivera after he was driven out of Layasiksa this winter. "They are now with us," said Reyes.

In presenting his views of the current situation on the Atlantic Coast, Reyes did not say anything about the role of the U.S. government. However, when asked by the *Militant* about Reagan's proposal before the U.S. Congress to give \$100 million to the mercenaries attacking Nicaragua, Reyes said, "Reagan is fomenting thousands more deaths" with those funds.

"What we need are bridges, we need fleets of fishing boats in order to live. We need factories on the Atlantic Coast," he explained. "It seems to me that Reagan is bothered by the idea that Nicaraguan Indians could be free."

"If you could see all the orphans, widows, and mothers who have been ambushed on the Atlantic Coast as a consequence of the war," he continued, "Reagan is generating more death, bloodshed, widows, and orphans. If we have more years [of war], we'll have more savagery."

the Marxist political journal *New Internationalist*. Among *IP*'s regular readers are European and North American solidarity activists resident in Nicaragua. They used to read *IP* in their own countries and now follow it regularly for its coverage of world news and the international revolutionary movement.

When *IP* ran the introduction to the new Pathfinder Press collection *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*, several readers stopped by the *PM* bureau offices to place orders for the book.

Hundreds of copies of Pathfinder Press books and pamphlets, the majority in English and some in Spanish, are sold here each month. They are distributed along with *PM* and *IP* and sold to solidarity activists from the United States and Europe who visit Nicaragua on tours or work brigades, as well as to Nicaraguans and other Latin Americans.

Sandinistas Speak and *The Sandinista People's Revolution*, two English-language collections of speeches by leaders of the Nicaraguan workers' and farmers' government, are consistent best sellers. Books of speeches by Cuban leaders Fidel Castro and Che Guevara and by Grenadian leader Maurice Bishop also sell well. There is a steady readership of Spanish-language pamphlets by Castro, Bishop and Malcolm X.

Another steady seller is *Out Now*, a history of the U.S. movement against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

Titles on women's liberation are popular in both English and Spanish. *Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution*, a speech by Sandinista leader Tomás Borge available in English or Spanish, *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, and the Spanish-language *Abortion, A Fundamental Right of Women* usually go fast.

Black party sponsors delegation to see Nicaraguan revolution

The National Black Independent Political Party is organizing a delegation of Blacks to see the progress being made by working people through the Nicaraguan revolution.

The one-week tour, July 19-26, will feature meetings with Nicaraguan workers, farmers, women, and youth in their workplaces, schools, and communities.

Of special interest will be a visit to Bluefields in Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast region, where the great majority of Nicaragua's Blacks live. The delegation will be able to discuss with Blacks and Indians of the Coast the measures they and the revolutionary government are taking to implement a regional governmental autonomy

plan, which is aimed at overcoming the historical oppression they have suffered.

The group will have the opportunity to meet with Nicaraguan soldiers, who are defending their country against the U.S.-organized *contra* war.

The cost of the tour is approximately \$625 from Miami. This includes travel to and from Nicaragua, meals, hotel, and travel in the country.

For more information contact Washington, D.C., NBIPP, P.O. Box 15556, Southeast Station, Washington, D.C. 20003; telephone (202) 543-1419 or Manhattan NBIPP, c/o Gregory Banks, P.O. Box 1794, New York, N.Y. 10009; telephone (212) 228-7925.

Nicaragua farmers' congress held

Continued from front page

Commander of the Revolution Luís Carrión, speaking for the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), gave the opening report.

"For us, of all the serious problems of the countryside, the most important is the problem of land," he said. The Nicaraguan government has already given land to 46,577 families to farm in cooperatives or individually. More than 36,000 who had worked plots of land on their own but without legal ownership — often for many years — have also received title to their land.

However, an estimated 80,000 more families are without land or have too little to live on. Thousands of these are peasants who were forced to flee their lands to escape attacks by the contras.

Despite progress in the land reform since the 1979 Sandinista revolution, "the problem is still not completely resolved, and we must continue to advance," said Carrión.

Some of the land will come from state-owned property, but much will have to come from wealthy landlords, Carrión explained. He called on the landlords to be ready to negotiate for the sale of their lands or "even to donate land in a spirit of national unity." He made it clear that the government will take the land needed if the landlords don't agree to negotiate.

Referring to those capitalist landlords who are known as "patriotic producers," he said, "No one can call themselves patriotic simply because they haven't left the country or because they've decided to join UNAG."

Carrión pointed out that some UNAG leaders had been large landowners, but that they had donated their lands to the revolution. UNAG should try to convince other large landowners to follow their example, he said.

Carrión also stressed that while UNAG should be open to anyone who accepts its goals, regardless of the amount of land they own, its priorities must lie with the poor peasants.

Later in the congress, Minister of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Commander Jaime Wheelock reported that the government planned to distribute 351,778 manzanas of land to 18,239 families during 1986. (One manzana equals 1.73 acres).

This is an increase in the number of families benefiting each year from the agrarian reform: in 1985, 15,470 families received land; in 1984, 12,090. Guerrilla Commander Alfonso Porras, the government official responsible for administering the land reform, told this reporter that the government planned to give land to all landless peasants by 1989.

Delegates applauded enthusiastically when Wheelock assured them that land worked by small and medium farmers "was sacred" and wouldn't be touched.

Strengthening cooperatives

Nearly half the land distributed in 1986 will go to individual farmers, the rest to peasants organized in cooperatives.

Carrión told the congress that cooperatives are the best way that poor peasants can pool resources and organize to utilize new machinery and technology, build warehouses and market their products, and give each other "material and moral support during hard times." Even with their present inexperience and weaknesses, the new cooperatives "have transformed the lives of thousands of peasants and constitute a firm revolutionary bastion with a great productive potential," he said.

However, the cooperatives should "arise only from the free decisions of the peasants," Carrión went on. Distribution of the land must not be conditioned on a peasant's willingness to join a cooperative, nor should anyone be discriminated against in credit or services because they choose to farm individually.

Of the 500 delegates to the congress, 229 were full-time UNAG organizers. Another 85 were farmers who worked their own land individually — most of them poor or medium farmers. The rest were from cooperatives: 99 individual farmers who belong to credit and service cooperatives, and 87 from cooperatives whose members own and work the land collectively. A sizeable minority wore badges indicating they were full members of the FSLN. Twenty-nine delegates were women.

The delegates elected three commissions to discuss further changes in the draft documents. The commission on the 1986-87 tasks, which was composed mostly of cooperative members and individual farmers, met for eight hours. Many of the changes they proposed were minor, but several involving the land reform provoked intense discussion.

In one case, the draft document stated that UNAG "supports the just demands" of peasants for land. The commission proposed changing this to read "supports and leads the just demands." UNAG President Núñez proposed "supports and organizes," saying that the Ministry of Agrarian Reform should lead the land reform.

Delegates who took the floor to speak argued for emphasizing UNAG's active, leadership role. "UNAG's mission is to

lead the landless peasants," one delegate declared to strong applause. The final version said that "UNAG supports, leads and organizes the just demands of the peasants for land."

Prices and supplies

Wheelock told the delegates that the government was taking steps to encourage agricultural production. It had decided to substantially raise the price paid farmers for cotton and coffee, two key export crops, and for sorghum and sesame. No official price would be set for corn or beans, allowing peasants to sell these freely on the market. Wheelock promised a better supply of vehicles, tools, and seeds and more bank credit for the next crop cycle. These measures were warmly applauded by the delegates.

Carrión also took up the critical problems of supply in the countryside. These shortages are caused fundamentally by the U.S.-organized war and the international economic crisis, he said.

"However, we must also recognize that at one point we did not know how to attend to the demands of agricultural producers." The government changed its supply policies at the end of 1984, he said, leading to increased availability of machetes, boots, nails, and other basic items.

"You should be aware that this improvement in supply to the countryside has only been possible thanks to the sacrifices of your brother workers in the cities," Carrión told the peasants. "They have seen their already reduced level of supply affected, especially the poorest workers."

This means that the peasantry must make a "moral and political commitment" to increase production to make more food available to city workers, he said.

In a Face-the-People meeting with the UNAG delegates, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega told them that they had an advantage over city workers, since peasants with land could — and should — plant small plots of food crops for their own consumption. City workers, on the other hand, are completely dependent upon their wages. Peasants had an obligation to see that they met the quotas for sales to government agencies since these are the channels that guarantee basic supplies for city workers.

While the government can improve supplies and services to the countryside, Ortega said, the economic crisis will continue as long as the U.S. contra war lasts.

Thus, despite the increases in prices for farm products, peasants "cannot expect a large, even a normal, profit margin," Ortega told them. If they can just cover their production costs, that would be doing very well in the present situation, he said.

Arms to defend the land

During the congress, many delegates had denounced the attacks by the U.S.-backed contras and demanded more arms for the peasants.

Mercedes Chavarria, a delegate from the cooperative La Posolera in north-central Nicaragua, told how the contras had attacked his co-op 15 days earlier. The co-op had only 20 guns. Five unarmed peasants were killed in the attack, he said. He de-



Militant/Nelson Blackstock
Peasants receiving land titles. Conference discussed deepening land reform.

manded that the government distribute more arms.

Erasmus Obando Flores, a rancher from the town of Santo Domingo, told this reporter that contras had murdered his father, his two brothers, and one farm worker in two separate attacks on their ranch. Now, Flores has abandoned the farm and is working as a full-time organizer for UNAG.

In answer to the delegates' demand for guns, Ortega explained that the government faced a problem of too few weapons. In some cases, he said, the government had taken back some guns given to cooperatives and given the weapons to newly-organized reserve army units. He said these guns would be returned to the peasants as soon as the country received more arms.

International solidarity

Leaders of farm organizations and peasant associations from Cuba, the Philippines, the United States, Canada, Eastern and Western Europe, Central America, Latin America, and the Caribbean brought greetings to the congress. In all, 97 international delegates from 21 countries attended.

Delegates applauded a decision by the Nicaraguan government to give 20,000 acres of land to U.S. farmers who were forced off their land by banks and food monopolies, so they could start a dairy project in Nicaragua.

At the closing rally, the international delegates issued a declaration condemning the U.S. aggression against Nicaragua and calling on peasant organizations throughout the world to support Nicaragua.

Representatives of two U.S. farmers' groups, Groundswell and the North American Farm Alliance, along with the Federation of Cooperatives of Costa Rica, and the Honduran Coffee Growers Association (AHPROCAFE) issued an additional joint declaration supporting Nicaragua's efforts to seek peace. They called on the U.S. government to withdraw all military aid and troops from Honduras and Costa Rica and pledged "to struggle so that our lands will not become bases for aggression against any other Central American country."

U.S., Honduran, Costa Rican farmers call for peace

The following declaration was released on April 27 at the end of the First Peasant Congress of Nicaragua's National Union of Farmers and Ranchers. (See news story.) It was signed by representatives of Groundswell and the North American Farm Alliance, two U.S. farmers' groups; Federation of Cooperatives of Costa Rica; and the Honduran Coffee Growers Association. The translation from Spanish is by the Militant.

The undersigned, delegates from the United States, Honduras, and Costa Rica to the First Congress of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers declare:

That we solidarize with the defense of justice, freedom, democracy, and peace.

We support the position of the Nicaraguan government to ratify the Contadora agreement as soon as the United States ceases its aggression against Nicaragua.

We reaffirm our commitment to fight to prevent our territory from becoming a base of aggression against any Central American country.

We declare that in order for there to be peace in the region it is indispensable for the government of the United States to withdraw its aid and military presence from Honduras and Costa Rica; we also urge the Contadora group to take on the task of patrolling the borders between Honduras and Nicaragua and between Nicaragua and Costa Rica until the conflict is resolved.

Sandinistas discuss party-building

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA — How to build the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) as a party was the theme of the March issue of *Bocay* magazine, published by the Political Directorate of Nicaragua's Ministry of the Interior (MINT).

Bocay takes its name from a small town in northern Nicaragua where, in the early 1960s, the FSLN attempted to set up one of its first guerrilla fronts against the Somoza dictatorship.

Today, *Bocay* is a magazine aimed at the young men and women of the MINT, as well as at a broader audience of working people in Nicaragua. The March issue coincided with the First Evaluation Assembly of the MINT section of the FSLN and therefore focused on the question of party-building.

Bocay quoted Commander of the Revolution Tomás Borge, head of the MINT and

a member of the FSLN National Directorate, on what kind of party Sandinistas should strive to construct: "In short, we have proposed building an organized revolutionary party, guided by scientific principles, conscious of its leading role, with high morals and a clear political strategy, permeated with the idea that it doesn't limit itself to the fight for reforms, but that it is gathering strength and energy in preparation for the complete elimination of exploitation and economic dependence for the revolutionary passage to a new society."

Borge also said, "It is a historic obligation to build a strong party. The party will be strong to the degree that it has a single will and is capable of carrying out homogeneous action. This is only possible on the basis of unity, democracy, and party discipline."

The editorial in the March issue centered

on the importance of party unity and recalled the period in the late 1970s when there was a deep split in the FSLN. "The FSLN was a monolithic organization, but unfortunately there was a point along the way when it divided into three tendencies," the editorial stated. "Because of the maturity of our leaders, however, we realized that dividing the Sandinista Front meant condemning the Nicaraguan people to defeat, as well as killing the only real political plan to take revolutionary power in Latin America and Central America at that time. Therefore, we united, not only for the Nicaraguan people, but also for the Central American and Latin American revolution.... Once there was unity in the FSLN, Somoza and his clique were only able to hang on to power a few more months."

Today, the editorial continued, "in these difficult moments for our country caused

Continued on Page 15

Contraceptives, young women, and the right to choose

Questions and answers on abortion

BY PAT GROGAN

This is the last in a series of four articles that answer some of the most common questions, lies, misconceptions, and myths about abortion.

The first three articles appeared in the March 14, April 11, and April 25 issues of the *Militant*.

Question. Is abortion really necessary? After all, contraception is widely available. If women acted "responsibly" and used it, they could avoid unwanted pregnancies.

Answer. There is no 100 percent effective contraceptive. The birth control pill is one of the most reliable methods, yet two out of a hundred women using the pill may face an unwanted pregnancy during the first year of use.

Moreover, those contraceptive methods with the highest rate of reliability — the birth control pill and the IUD — are associated with very serious side effects for some women. Many women choose less reliable methods of birth control rather than face the risks to their health.

Contraceptive information and services are not readily available to all women, especially to young women, poor women, and women in many rural areas.

It should be noted that many of the same "right-to-lifers" who oppose a woman's right to choose abortion also actively oppose the use and distribution of contraception.

In Congress, many of the same politicians who backed the Hyde Amendment, which cut off federal funding for abortion, are now trying to pass the Kemp-Hatch Amendment. It would cut federal funds for all birth control services to any organization that informs women they have the option of abortion. If federal funds are cut at family planning clinics, state health departments, and hospitals, thousands, especially working-class women and teenagers, will lose access to birth control.

Whatever the reason a woman finds herself facing an unwanted pregnancy — that contraception either failed or was not available, or simply that she didn't use it — once a woman has an unwanted pregnancy, the only alternative to forced childbearing is abortion. Every year, 1.5 million women choose to terminate pregnancies by abortion, an extremely safe, simple procedure.

The idea that women should be punished for not using contraceptives by being forced to bear an unwanted child denigrates women. It is a variation on the theme that women should be penalized for sexual activity.

Q. Abortion may be justified in many cases, but shouldn't the man have some say in the decision?

A. The question of who decides is fundamental. As long as someone else has the right to tell a woman she must bear a child, any idea of equality or freedom for women is empty. As long as a husband, boyfriend, parent, priest, or judge can control a woman's childbearing, they control her life. They rule over her in this most basic decision.

The 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion declared that "the right of privacy, grounded in the concept of personal liberty guaranteed by the Constitution, encompasses a woman's right to decide whether to terminate her pregnancy."

The Supreme Court declared unconstitutional any state law that would give men the right of veto power over a woman's decision to have an abortion. To have decided otherwise would completely contradict a woman's "personal liberty."

Any idea of equality between husband and wife — or any man and woman — is absurd if the man has the right to force a woman to bear children against her will.

Q. But shouldn't parents have a say

over their daughter's decision to have an abortion? Shouldn't they at least be notified?

A. The rights of young women have been severely restricted by laws requiring parental consent or notification before a minor can have an abortion.

Parental notification laws are in effect in nine states and parental consent laws in seven others. At least 13 other state legislatures are trying to pass these "squeal laws."

In 1979, the Supreme Court ruled that as long as a woman under 18 has the right to "judicial bypass," the states have the right to enforce parental notification and consent laws.

This means that a young woman has a choice: she can either inform or get permission from her parents, or she can appear in front of a judge who will decide if she is "mature" enough to have an abortion.

Going to court is no easy thing for anyone. Finding out about your rights, making the arrangements, and then standing up to face a judge who will decide your fate is a fearful, if not impossible, proposition for most young women.

In many states, petitions for abortion are heard only in major cities, and young women may have to travel hundreds of miles. For those who can't make travel arrangements or afford to travel, their option is lost.

Being forced by courts or parents to bear a child against her will often means the end of a young woman's education, being pressured into an unwanted marriage, or being forced to try to survive on welfare.

Many young women do choose to consult one or both parents. But many others fear disapproval, punishment, or being prevented from obtaining an abortion.

Fear of parents' reactions can drive many young women to risk their lives in attempts at self-induced abortions.

And it causes many young women to delay abortions until late in the pregnancy when there is greater risk of complication.

A very small number of abortions — 2.7 percent — are performed after 14 weeks of pregnancy, and less than 1 percent of abortions are performed in the last 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Teenagers and poor women make up the overwhelming majority of those women who have abortions after the 14th week.

Q. Isn't it true that women who have

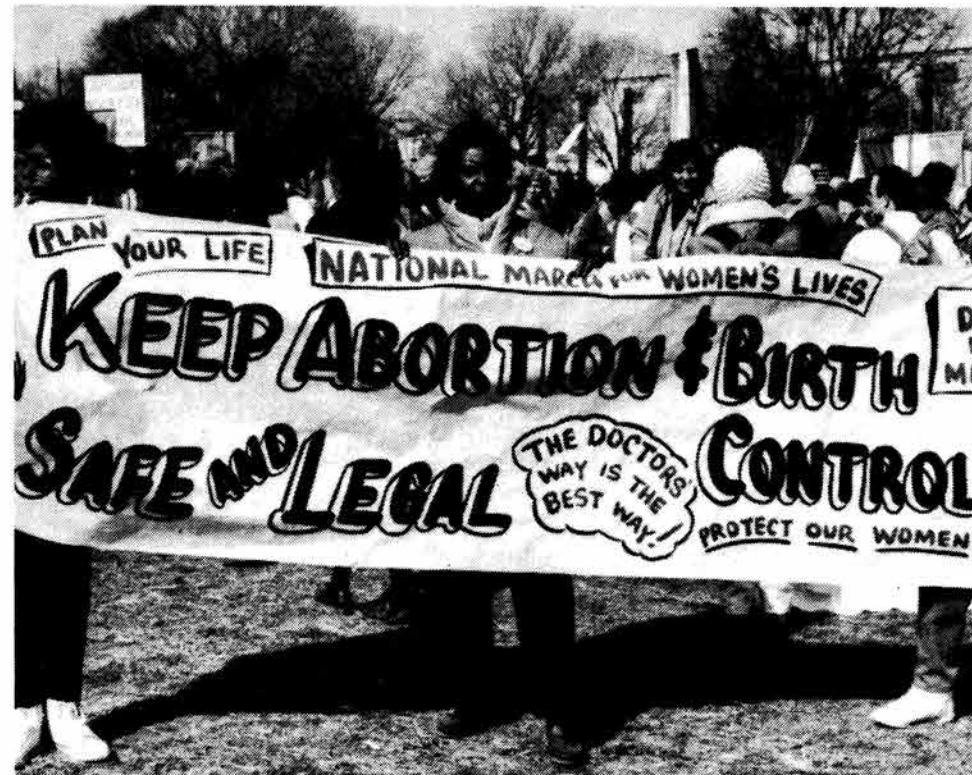
N.Y. Vietnam solidarity meeting set

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — An important meeting in solidarity with the people of Vietnam will occur here on Sunday, May 18. It is sponsored by the Vietnam Anniversary Committee and is called "An Educational Celebration of the 11th Anniversary of the Total Liberation of Vietnam."

The event will provide an important opportunity to discuss the progress of the revolution in Vietnam. And it will demand an end to the U.S. government's trade embargo and call for the U.S. to establish normal diplomatic relations with Vietnam.

A letter sent by the anniversary committee to hundreds of individuals and organizations throughout the New York area explained: "The May 18th program will explore the significance of the lessons of Vietnam for the anti-intervention and peace movement today. The Reagan administration is invoking its lessons of that war for its own purposes — justifying its contra-aid policy and conducting the largest air raid since the Vietnam war against Libya. From Central America to the Middle East to Angola, Reagan is opting for military intervention and war. In order to counter this and the Rambo



More than 100,000 women marched in Washington, D.C., to defend abortion rights March 9.

abortions suffer psychological damage, trauma, guilt, and depression?

A. The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences has concluded that there is no detectable connection between abortion and mental illness.

This confirms the results of numerous scientific studies and research done over the past 50 years.

In fact, the first and most strongly felt reaction of most women after a freely chosen, safe, legal abortion is one of profound relief.

When abortion was illegal, women suffered tremendous psychological damage and trauma because of the dangers of illegal abortion, and the fear, secrecy, guilt, and shame abortion was shrouded in.

Despite the danger, hundreds of thousands of women each year struggled to overcome their fears and risked their lives to get an illegal or self-induced abortion. Women who were forced to bear children against their will because abortion was illegal suffered deep demoralization.

The ability to freely choose whether or not to terminate a pregnancy is crucial to a woman's psychological well-being. A 1979 article in the *Journal of Family Practice* on the effects of legalized abortion reported that the "opportunity to choose or reject abortion and to play an active role in resolving a personal crisis promoted successful adjustment and maturation, and that termination of pregnancy by abortion did not constitute serious psychological trauma or precipitate emotional conflict for most women."

A 1972 study done by Rinfret, Giroux, and Boucher in Quebec showed results similar to other studies of women who have had abortions.

Four out of five women, they reported, felt mainly relieved and more in control after their abortions. The study also showed that 78.4 percent of the women said a year later that they would make the same decision.

Of course, there are some women who feel regret, guilt, or depression after an abortion.

In the Quebec study, two out of five women reported some feelings of regret, most of it mild and outweighed by confidence that they had made the right decision.

Some women felt regret because they would have liked to continue the pregnancy if conditions had been different. Others felt some guilt about having had an unwanted pregnancy in the first place. Some reflected feelings of shame about their sexuality.

Most often, negative feelings came because of disapproval, or fears of disapproval, from family and friends, or pressure from religious or political propaganda aimed at making them feel guilty.

The small minority of women who felt serious remorse or guilt fell into two categories: those who had strong pressure exerted on them to terminate a pregnancy by a boyfriend, husband, parents, or physician, and those who decided to have an abortion despite their own conviction that they were violating their religious or ethical beliefs.

It is not safe, legal abortion that harms women — psychologically or otherwise. Abortion is a simple procedure that allows women to control their childbearing and thus their lives. It gives women a measure of independence and control.

It is those who are trying to drive women into the danger, fear, and guilt of illegal abortion who harm women.

rhetoric, understanding the parallels between the U.S. war in Vietnam and today is crucial."

Speakers will include a representative of the Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United Nations; Digna Sanchez, program director for MADRE, a Central America solidarity group; a slideshow by Merle Ratner about her two-month visit to Vietnam; and Clarence Fitch, coordinator of the New Jersey-New York Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Fitch recently returned from a visit to Nicaragua organized by the VVAW. Representatives from Laos and Kampuchea will present solidarity statements.

Endorsers of the meeting include: Association of Vietnamese in the United States; Casa de las Americas; Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos; Citizen Soldier, *Guardian* newspaper; American Workers Party; Committee to Advance the Movement for Democracy and Independence (Philippines); Movement for a Left Alternative; U.S. Peace Council; Union of Democratic Filipinos; Line of March; Peace and Solidarity Alliance; People's Anti-War Mobilization; Puerto Rican Socialist Party;

Socialist Workers Party; Workers World Party; Vietnam Veterans Against the War; and Young Socialist Alliance.

A broad turnout is important in light of continued threats and harassment of supporters of the Vietnamese revolution by right-wing Vietnamese thugs. Last February rightist Vietnamese goons attempted to disrupt a reception hosted by the Vietnamese Mission to the UN in celebration of the Vietnamese new year, Tet.

Right-wing Vietnamese have also carried out firebombings, ambushes, and even assassinations of supporters of Vietnam. Their violence fits in with the U.S. government's policy both to isolate Vietnam and to escalate the U.S.-backed war in Central America.

It's urgent that all defenders of democratic rights let the city administration know that they support the right of this meeting to occur free of harassment and intimidation.

The meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. at Casa de las Americas, 104 W. 14th St., Manhattan.

For more information contact the Vietnam Anniversary Committee at P.O. Box 303 Prince Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10012-0303 or call (718) 643-0201.

Why workers should uphold right not to talk to FBI

BY JEFF JONES
AND SAM MANUEL

SAN JOSE — Last November Don Bechler was hauled in by plant security at Westinghouse to face interrogation by an FBI agent. The agent said he was being investigated for in-plant "sabotage." He was grilled for 40 minutes without a lawyer present, which is his legal right. He also did not have his shop steward with him.

Bechler is active in the anti-apartheid movement and the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America. He is also a union activist and a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

This questioning by the FBI was not only a violation of Bechler's democratic rights, but the rights of everyone who has a dissenting point of view, as well as an attack on the union. Charges of "sabotage" against workers in plants that make military hardware are part of the employers' and government's sustained offensive against democratic rights. This is why it is useful to look at what happened at Westinghouse and the lessons of that experience.

Westinghouse is a major producer of military hardware. The plant is in Sunnyvale, California. The production workers are represented by International Association of Machinists Local 565. Bechler is a bench grinder.

The FBI agent had Bechler's personal notebook, which Bechler thought he had lost. The agent said that plant security had given it to him.

After Bechler agreed to talk with the FBI, the agent asked a number of questions about the notebook. It had notes about work, shopping lists, and information on various political activities Bechler is involved in.

The FBI agent told Bechler that he thought potential saboteurs in the plant included unionists who opposed concessions to the company in the recent contract negotiations. Some workers may have been frustrated that there wasn't a strike, the agent said, and therefore decided to commit sabotage.

After the grilling, the FBI agent refused to return Bechler's notebook — implying that he remained under investigation.

At a union meeting 11 days later, it was reported that another worker had been

subjected to a similar interrogation by the FBI. Union leaders stressed that members should always demand a shop steward when meeting with the company.

Under pressure from the union, the FBI has since returned Bechler's notebook.

This harassment by the FBI represents a serious attack on the democratic rights of Bechler, the union, and all working people. The FBI has no legal right to walk into a plant, roam around, and begin interrogating workers. And workers, as well as others, are under no legal obligation to voluntarily submit to such questioning.

The FBI, like all other cop agencies in this country, serves and protects big business and its government. When they enter Westinghouse or other plants it is on the side of the company.

This attack on democratic rights occurs in the context of the employers' antilabor offensive and drive toward war in Central America. Such assaults go hand in hand.

As the government gears up for war abroad, it must erode democratic rights at home. The aim is to get workers to accept as normal such things as growing restrictions on security clearances, denying the rights of accused persons to be released on bail, having more cops in the plants questioning workers, and developing an atmosphere of suspicion against workers who buy socialist publications or travel to Nicaragua.

It is part of the government's concerted effort to change workers' perception of what's "normal." Each blow to democratic rights weakens the ability of the labor movement to defend itself against austerity and fight U.S. intervention abroad.

In the last period the government has concocted a series of highly publicized trials of accused "spies" — the greatest number of espionage cases at any one time in the history of the country.

These "spy" trials and charges of industrial sabotage are aimed at dividing and intimidating workers. While initial targets tend to be politically active workers, the ultimate victims are all workers and working farmers. The aim is to sharply limit democratic rights and limit political discussion and debate in order to dragoon workers into war.

One aspect of the employers' anti-democratic drive is seeking to establish the "right" of the FBI and other cop agencies to enter workplaces and interrogate workers.

Among the ways in which the FBI and cops justify their intrusion is the alleged need to defend "national security" by stopping "saboteurs" and cracking down on "drug use."

By agreeing to talk to an agent, a worker falls into the trap that has been set: the act



of talking itself is a form of collaboration with the agent. This is true regardless of whether a shop steward is present or not. Although Bechler denied the charges of sabotage, the fact that he talked to the agent had already caused damage to workers' rights.

The content of what a worker says in such a situation is not the key problem. The agreement to *cooperate* — talk — when not legally compelled to, means the cops scored a victory.

The goal of the FBI in these circumstances is not to get a worker to say something "damaging" — that's just a bonus for them when that happens — but to get the worker to accept and help establish their "right" to engage in such interrogations. This reinforces the lie that cops stand above struggles between workers and bosses and in that sense are neutral. It helps reinforce one of the most elementary forms of class collaboration: actions based on the illusion that the cops are neutral, that they are simply enforcing the law without fear or favor.

Moreover, it breaks down trust between workers. A precedent is set that it is okay to talk to the FBI and their finks when instead workers should have nothing to do with them.

Bechler had no legal obligation to talk to the FBI. He in essence gave up his rights by doing so. And, whatever he did say is now potential material to be used against him, the union, and others regardless of his intentions. There is no such thing as an off-the-record talk with cops.

Under the Constitution and Bill of Rights, no one is ever obligated to volun-

tarily speak to a cop — FBI, CIA, immigration, city, state, customs.

The accompanying reprint of a 1950s statement issued by the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee explains one's rights in relation to the FBI: "The FBI, unlike courts and grand juries, does not have the power of subpoena and of compulsory examination. You may decline an invitation to visit FBI agents or to receive them in your home or office. . . . The use of investigative power by governmental agencies to intimidate or threaten is expressly forbidden by law."

In other words, one is *never* legally obligated to voluntarily engage in conversation with the FBI and other cop bodies.

Looking back on what happened to him and the union, Bechler commented: "Once I started talking to them, they had me. I let them establish their 'right' to even hold such conversations.

"The fact that the union stood up for me and forced the FBI to return my notebook was a victory. It showed that it is possible to resist FBI violations of democratic rights.

"The basic lesson to draw from this experience, however, is: never, under any circumstances, voluntarily talk to the FBI or any other cop."

Jeff Jones is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 565. Sam Manuel is the organizer of the San Francisco branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

Chicago Steelworkers continue strike at Wire Cloth Products

Continued from Page 8

but with so many out of jobs, they'll do like before and start sending us to war."

Many of the strikers are immigrants from Italy, Germany, and Greece, where working people have won free medical care. Willie, from Germany, said: "People who worked all their lives should be guaranteed rent and medical care. America is the richest country. They should stop paying the *contras* and take care of the poor here."

Russell added: "We should get it for nothing. And they shouldn't kick you out of the hospital when you're sick and don't have the money."

"Pretty soon Medicare will be cut in half," said Mario. "If the plants close down, the government is supposed to help us."

After an hour of discussion on the picket line, we went for coffee. Russell told us, "We've got to be like the workers at Hormel, where the whole family sticks together. They've had to, or they couldn't have come this far."

"Yeah," John agreed. "We need all the unions together. Not just steel, not just the meatpackers. We've got to strike together."

Jan Vasquez and Gail Skidmore are members of United Steelworkers of America Local 7240.

Statement on the FBI and your rights

In the 1950s the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee issued a statement on the rights of individuals in relation to the FBI. The *Militant* at the time reprinted the statement. It remains valid for today. We're reprinting it for the information of our readers.

The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee has received many letters and telephone calls from people who have been visited by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These people indicated confusion about their obligations to their government and about their rights as citizens.

Since we believe that the average person as a rule does not know his duties or his rights concerning FBI interrogation, we offer this general information for those to whom it may be helpful.

You may feel, as many people do, that you have a moral obligation as a citizen to supply any governmental agency with all of the facts which would be helpful in a given situation, provided that neither your rights nor those of others are being violated. It is even possible that the inquiry concerns the application for government

employment of someone with whom you are acquainted.

However, you frequently do not know the purpose of the inquiry, and the inquirer will rarely tell you in advance. Therefore, it is important for you to know that you are under no legal obligation to talk to representatives of the FBI or of any other governmental agency, unless you have been subpoenaed. The FBI, unlike courts and grand juries, does not have the power of subpoena and of compulsory examination. You may decline an invitation to visit FBI agents or to receive them in your home or office.

Unfortunately, at the present time many FBI inquiries appear to be concerned with political associations rather than with obtaining facts for constructive purposes of criminal investigation. The very nature of political inquiries means that many of the questions will be of the sort which no citizen is, or should be, required to answer. The protections afforded to you by the Bill of Rights as interpreted by the Supreme Court in recent as well as earlier decisions are as available to you in such an interview as they would be in open court or before a

Congressional body. If you have any doubts as to the FBI's questions you may refuse to answer until your attorney has been consulted, or you may insist on having your attorney present during the interview. You may also ask to have the questions put in writing.

In determining your responsibility to answer questions, remember that there are no off-the-record conversations with the FBI. The agent in question is under a duty to make some report of his interrogation or interview. He may, possibly, be recording the conversation without your knowledge. Be most careful to be accurate. For the obvious reasons of civic duty, morality and personal safety, do not answer questions if you do not have personal knowledge of the facts. False statements, although made orally and not under oath, may be the basis for a criminal prosecution.

Finally, the use of investigative power by governmental agencies to intimidate or threaten is expressly forbidden by law. We suggest that you report any attempt at intimidation to the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee.

Boston school closings

Continued from back page

Plain.

The backdrop for the current student protests is the attempt to *resegregate* the schools.

On April 26 Boston School Committee member Jean McGuire, a Black educator with roots in the fight for Black equality, was greeted with a huge ovation when she denounced the cuts and closings as an attack on desegregation. She spoke before 500 students and parents attending a public meeting of the committee at Madison Park High School in the city's Roxbury Black community.

Hundreds of teachers and administrators, many of them hired under affirmative-action provisions of the Garry order, would be transferred or laid off if the proposals, which affect 20 percent of the city's high school students, are approved by the school committee.

This reality has compelled the leadership of the Boston Teachers Union to oppose the Wilson proposals, putting the BTU on the side of students, the Black and Latino communities, and working-class parents for the first time since desegregation began.

Many teachers have actively sided with student protest organizers as well, opening the door toward deeper unity between those who've benefited from desegregation, and the BTU, which has historically stood aside from this fight.

Teachers, parents, and school administrators were among those who added their voices of opposition to the school closings at a hearing attended by more than 1,000 on April 29 at Boston English High School.

'We are the future'

But it was the students' spirit, unity, and militancy that set the tone of that evening. High school colors, banners, and signs were waved by the crowd and covered the walls. "We are the future," one hand-lettered sign read.

"The suburbanites are trying to take over," Tom Williams, Jr., a Black student from Madison Park, told the committee. "They want the schools for their kids."

The white population increase in Boston was 30,000 larger than that of Black and Latino communities between 1980 and

1985. And the number of white students who attend private and parochial schools in Boston is greater than the number of Blacks and Latinos in public schools in this majority-white city. Thus, desegregated "magnet" high schools like Umana and Madison Park are prime targets for resegregation.

To fight to keep Madison Park as it is — a desegregated comprehensive high school — Tom Williams said, "We'll sit down like Martin Luther King."

Faculty, staff, and students from the model bilingual, bicultural Rafael Hernandez School — another product of the Garry order — opposed their school taking over the Theodore Roosevelt Middle School, which would be closed by such a move. Despite the fact that Rafael Hernandez needs the new facilities the middle school would provide, they have rejected this divisive maneuver.

Referring to the Umana High School, a young white junior said, "I love that school. You can't take it away from me." Umana is a new science and technology high school resulting from desegregation. It is open to all students from around the city and has a majority Black, Latino, and Asian student body, though it is located in East Boston, a white neighborhood. The Wilson resegregation proposal would move a predominantly white junior high school into the Umana facilities and disperse its current students elsewhere in the city.

Powerful effect of desegregation

Throughout the evening of testimony and protest what became clear were the powerful results of the desegregation order — even though years of lies and propaganda against this ruling meant that only a few parents specifically related their remarks to the Garry order.

The creative programs, special projects with local universities, affirmative action, and parent input mandated by the court order have strengthened public education for working-class youth in Boston, despite cutbacks, layoffs, and conscious attempts by the school department and racist teachers and staff to sabotage desegregation.

But above increased academic achievement, better attendance, and higher morale



Students protest school closings aimed at reversing desegregation

— cited by scores of those who spoke out at the hearing — something else, even more powerful, was evident: the multiracial solidarity of the student leaders of the anticlosing movement.

These Black, Latino, and white youth are fighting together against the cuts.

They are conscious of battling the divisions of racism, and of uniting their parents and teachers as well.

This consciousness did not exist before

school busing began to attack the old dual school system — the apartheid in public education — that separated the races and forced Black and Latino youth into second-class public education.

In a leaflet put out by the Jamaica Plain High School students, a sophomore there, Vivian Martinez, put it best. She explained that her high school is "special because the Spanish, Black, and White kids get along. Everyone is equal."

Socialist candidates condemn attacks on desegregation

BY JACK GARFIELD

BOSTON — Among those testifying against the proposed school closings here April 29 were Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, Jon Hillson, and SWP gubernatorial candidate Ellen Berman.

Hillson, an activist in the 1974-76 struggle to defend desegregation, wrote *The Battle of Boston*, a book which tells the story of the historic fight for equal education in Boston. He is a Lawrence, Massachusetts, textile worker and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

None of Hillson's nine opponents, all Democrats, bothered to attend the hearings.

Hillson blasted the school-closing proposals as "an effort to resegregate the schools and to favor the rich at the expense of working people, especially those who

are Black and Latino."

Saluting the student protesters, Hillson urged a "broad coalition of students, labor, and the Black and Latino communities to organize massive protests in defense of public education, desegregation, and against the cutbacks and the layoffs of teachers and staff that would accompany school closings."

Berman, a machinist at General Electric in nearby Lynn and a member of the International Union of Electronic Workers, hailed the Boston students who, "like the courageous students in South Africa, are taking to the streets to demand their right to equality."

She urged the city's labor movement to support the demands of the students and "fight along with them to ensure that working-class youth in Boston have the right to equality in education."

Az. sanctuary activists convicted

Continued from front page
ing their defense.

In a series of pretrial decisions, presiding Judge Earl Carroll ruled that the U.S.-backed war and repression in Central America were "irrelevant" to the case. Defendants' religious motivation was ruled "inadmissible." And the judge barred testimony demonstrating that refugees who turn themselves in to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at the border asking for political asylum are systematically denied asylum and deported.

The judge also ruled inadmissible testimony on the background and activities of the prosecutor's star witness — Jesus Cruz. Cruz, who makes his living preying on undocumented workers by charging them exorbitant fees to be smuggled into the United States, was a paid INS informer who infiltrated the sanctuary movement. His activities included secretly tape recording church meetings.

The judge's biased rulings meant that the jury was deprived of most of the evidence.

Irregularities in the trial continued even through the jury deliberations. On the second day of the deliberations, the bailiff, the only court officer in contact with the jury, was photographed having discussions over drinks with two INS agents from the prosecutor's team. After a defense attorney blew the whistle on him, Judge Carroll removed the bailiff from the case but refused to find any misconduct. The judge also refused a defense motion to force the bailiff

and the agents to reveal the content of their discussions.

Defense attorney William Walker estimates that the federal government spent between \$2.5 and \$3 million on the case. During pretrial hearings it was revealed that the INS investigation of the sanctuary movement had been directed from the INS central offices in Washington.

The government clearly hoped that the trial would serve to intimidate the sanctuary movement and other opponents of Washington's intervention in Central America. But in the six months during which the trial was going on, the movement, in fact, grew. The number of churches that have declared themselves sanctuaries increased from 200 to 302. Nineteen cities and the State of New Mexico have made their jurisdictions sanctuaries for Central American refugees.

The demand to drop the charges against these sanctuary activists is an important part of the fight against U.S. intervention in Central America and for the right to political asylum.

'Militant' Prisoner Fund

The *Militant's* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who need help paying for the paper. Please send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? 'PM': U.S. props up Haiti junta

Elliott Abrams, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, recently announced that Washington would increase its military assistance to the new military junta in Haiti.

While Abrams admitted that Haiti's most pressing needs are food and jobs, he declared that "if you want to maintain order in the country, then the military is going to have to modernize and professionalize." Seven demonstrators were shot dead on April 26 by that same military regime.

The current issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* explains that the Haitian people see things differently from Abrams. Almost 90 percent of Haitian children suffer from varying degrees of malnutrition. Half the working population makes about \$130 a year — not even enough for one daily meal. Following the overthrow of the dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier, there has been growing popular demand for an elected civilian government to replace Duvalier's hand-picked junta.

Also in the current issue of *PM* is a continuing series of questions and answers explaining why working people should support women's right to abortion.

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every two weeks brings you the truth about the struggles of

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Why S. African gov't is changing pass laws

BY FRED FELDMAN

On April 23 the apartheid regime in South Africa announced plans to amend or abolish 32 of the laws dictating where and when Blacks may live, work, or otherwise be present in the 87 percent of South Africa that is reserved by law for whites.

The proposals came in the form of a government White Paper. To become law, they will have to be approved by the all-white House of Delegates.

The Reagan administration promptly hailed the proposal as establishing "freedom of movement to and within urban areas for all South African citizens on a nondiscriminatory basis." It said this marked "a major milestone on the road away from apartheid."

This is false.

The South African rulers and their backers in Washington hope this action will convince people around the world, who have been voicing solidarity with the anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa and demanding economic sanctions against the apartheid regime, that the government of President Pieter Botha is moving away from white supremacy.

The final form of the upcoming legislation, and what it will mean in practice, remains to be seen. But the information available thus far leaves no doubt that the proposed new laws are not "milestones on the road away from apartheid" but measures to adapt and defend the apartheid state in the face of a growing challenge by the Black masses and their allies at home and growing opposition internationally.

New identity card

The proposals include abolition of the existing pass laws and replacement of the detailed reference book, which Africans are now required to carry, with an identity card, to be carried by all South Africans, which will be coded to identify the race of the bearer. As part of issuing the identity cards, the White Paper recommends that all South Africans (instead of Africans only as at present) be fingerprinted.

(The oppressed Black population in South Africa comprises 24 million Africans, 3 million Coloureds, and almost 1 million Indians. Blacks make up 85 percent of South Africa's people.)

Police can ask any South Africans to produce their identity cards, and, until the new cards are issued, Africans must still produce their reference books on demand.

As the April 26 issue of the major British capitalist weekly the *Economist* pointed out, "99% of the people whom [the police] choose to ask for their identity documents will no doubt be black, and transgressors will be harassed as much as they were under the old pass laws."

Stoffel Botha, minister of home affairs, explained why racial identification would be included in the new pass. "The government is of the opinion that various population groups must be identified," he said. "It is the basis of the political system."

'Unrest areas'

As the White Paper was being made public, the government urged parliament to adopt legislation giving the minister of law and order, a cabinet member, the power to proclaim any part of South Africa an "unrest area." The new law would also allow the minister to issue whatever restrictions on democratic rights he thinks appropriate, inside or outside an "unrest area," and to authorize other officials to determine penalties for violation of the restrictions.

The courts, under the proposed law, would be barred from overruling any of these actions.

The White Paper says that the proposed changes amount to abolishing the system of influx control, which had the ultimate goal of barring all Africans from anything but temporary residence as laborers in "white" South Africa. According to the new proposals, influx control will now be replaced with "planned, positive urbanization" of Blacks. While there are in effect no restrictions on the movement of whites in "white" South Africa, Blacks will continue to be hemmed in by restrictions.

Residential segregation

According to the White Paper proposals, Africans would now be permitted to live in any of the townships or areas set aside for



South African cop arrests woman for pass law violation. Massive revolt against apartheid system forced government to propose changing laws, but apartheid regime is determined to control lives of Blacks in interest of white rulers.

them if they can prove they are in "possession or occupation of an approved home or site." Africans lacking this can be forcibly removed.

Housing for Blacks has been deliberately kept scarce in "white" South Africa. The Group Areas Act bars Africans, Coloureds, and Indians from living outside the townships set aside for them.

According to some estimates, at least 1 million Blacks now living in urban areas in "white" South Africa lack the housing required for legal residence under the proposed law.

Christiaan Heunis, minister for constitutional development and planning in the Botha government, told an international news conference April 23 that the regime viewed residential segregation as a "necessity."

Under the new proposals, laws against "squatting" — the setting up of unauthorized housing by Blacks, especially outside their assigned areas — are supposed to be strengthened and strictly enforced.

The vast overcrowding in the townships has forced Blacks to set up "squatter" cities on unused land reserved for whites. An example of such a city is Crossroads in the Cape Town area. Blacks will face continued attempts to forcibly remove them.

Nor will the legal position of Blacks who are continuing to work the land in rural areas of "white" South Africa be improved. They will continue to face confiscation of their land and forced removal to the Bantustans under anti-squatting and other laws.

While the White Paper left open the prospect of expanding the land available for Black housing, it stressed that "the present practice of creating a shortage of land" in the main metropolitan areas "should continue."

Bantustans

The 7.5 million Africans who have been assigned to supposedly "independent" Bantustans and stripped of their South African citizenship will not be covered by the new laws. They will be treated as "foreigners," subject to expulsion to their assigned Bantustan at any time.

About 3.8 million people from these Bantustans now work in "white" South Africa. Many will still be forced to commute long distances daily to jobs in the industrial cities of "white" South Africa. Still others will be compelled under migrant-labor agreements to leave their families behind in the Bantustans.

The regime says the possibility of granting the "citizens" of these Bantustans dual citizenship is still being negotiated with its handpicked Bantustan administrations.

The KwaNdebele Bantustan is sched-

uled to be proclaimed independent late this year. This would add thousands of African workers in the Pretoria area to the millions of "foreigners" not covered by the proposed legislation.

After all, insisted cabinet member Christiaan Heunis, "freedom of movement should not be seen as a free-for-all and no-holds-barred opportunity to settle anywhere at any time." Not under apartheid.

The regime has been forced to give up the Nazi-like dream of barring all Africans from "white" South Africa, except as migrant laborers penned in hostel barracks or day laborers expected to be out of the area by nightfall. As the White Paper put it, the regime now "accepts" that urbanization of Blacks will continue to take place.

This is a tribute to the massive struggle of Blacks over the past two years and the

many battles over the preceding years, which shattered the old system of influx control and made it unenforceable.

But the laws clearly demonstrate the regime's determination to control the movement of Blacks, to force large numbers of them to live in the Bantustans and subject others to the constant threat of removal, and to preserve a "white" South Africa where Blacks' place is as a pool of exploited laborers for white bosses.

Apartheid state

The apartheid state, no less than under the old pass and influx-control laws, is attempting to assert its power to control the lives of Blacks in the interests of the white rulers.

It is this state which adopts laws, changes them, and seeks to enforce them with its cops and troops. This state is based on depriving Blacks of all political power, which is exclusively held by the white rulers. This is the essence of apartheid.

In the face of mass opposition, this state has used reforms as well as repression to preserve itself. In 1979, in the wake of the Soweto uprising and the growing strength of Black and nonracial unions, it recognized the right of Africans to join unions — while continuing to use brutal force whenever possible against strikes and union organizing efforts.

The apartheid state is basically a war machine against the struggle that the Black masses are waging for a united, democratic, nonracial South Africa. These millions are aiming not only at abolishing the pass laws and the whole web of apartheid legislation, but at dismantling the government and state machine that defends white supremacy.

The repressive measures proposed by Botha are an attempt to strengthen the state's capacity to wage this war against the Black majority.

The establishment of a democratic, non-racial government in South Africa requires the overthrow of the apartheid state. And only such a government can uphold the rights of all South Africans to access to the land, freedom of movement, equality before the law, and other basic democratic rights.

Patrick Lephumya, a spokesperson for the United Democratic Front (the coalition of anti-apartheid organizations that has helped organize many protests in South Africa), put it well. "Apartheid cannot be reformed. It must be eradicated."

Party-building in Nicaragua

Continued from Page 11

by imperialist aggression, unity continues to be the magic word, the charm, needed to keep winning and overcoming difficult turning points along the way without compromising the strategic objectives of our Sandinista People's Revolution."

In a major interview in the magazine, Guerrilla and Brigade Commander Omar Cabezas, chief of the MINT's Political Directorate and coordinator of the FSLN's Party Leadership Committee there, took up some of the questions the March FSLN assembly was to address.

Among the questions, Cabezas said, was the pace and caliber of recruitment to the FSLN. "We have to discuss and make a decision about the growth of the Sandinista Front in 1986," he explained. "Some people think that we've been growing too fast and that we have to stop because it could affect the quality of our organization. Others think we should keep on growing."

Cabezas also announced a change in the leadership committee of the FSLN at the MINT. "The National Directorate of the FSLN," he explained, "decided to restructure the Party Leadership Committee (CDP), which had been made up of commanders of the revolution Tomás Borge [who was coordinator of the CDP] and Luis Carrión, in addition to commanders René Vivas, Lenín Cerna, Doris Tijerino, and myself."

"This [change] was due to the fact that this was the only leadership committee of the FSLN that was headed by two members of the National Directorate. Naturally they carried out party work in the [CDP], but objectively it was more appropriate for

commanders Borge and Carrión to do so in the higher body, which is the National Directorate. In addition, it was decided to take the two off the CDP because their many assignments, more than ours, made it impossible for them to attend all the meetings."

The current members of the CDP, Cabezas said, are himself, René Vivas, Doris Tijerino, Lenín Cerna, Manuel Calderón, Walter Ferrey, and Manuel Rivas. He predicted "substantial changes" in the party's work at the ministry.

Cabezas said the FSLN assembly would also discuss the party youth organization, the Sandinista Youth — July 19 (JS-19). In a separate interview, Lt. Raúl Valdivia, head of the JS-19 at the MINT, talked to *Bocay* about some of the questions being discussed by that organization.

"Lieutenant Valdivia," wrote *Bocay*, "clearly affirms that the leadership of the Sandinista Youth must not be substituted for by party leadership, but rather must be seen as a transmission belt for experience."

"Let there be openness in the FSLN toward the initiatives that JS-19 raises; let this be projected in the development of the Sandinista Youth instead of mechanically carrying out the tasks of the base committees of the FSLN because that would undercut the creative ability of the ranks of the JS-19."

Other articles in the March *Bocay* took up International Women's Day and the cultural activities of MINT members. This year the MINT will sponsor an exhibition of paintings by MINT workers and a poetry and short story contest on the themes of police and security work.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Southwest Socialist Educational Conference. "Lessons of World Politics in 1986." A forum by Jackie Floyd, cochairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance, recently returned from Haiti. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 10, 7:30 p.m. Party to follow. Donation: \$3. "The Trade Unions Today." Two classes with James Harris, member Socialist Workers Party National Committee, eyewitness to strike by meatpackers against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota. Class 1. "The Fight for a Class-Struggle Policy." Sat., May 10, 12:30 p.m. Class 2. "The Meaning of the P-9 Strike in Austin." Sat., May 10, 3 p.m. Translation to Spanish. Donation: \$1.50 per class.

Forum and classes held at 2546 W Pico Blvd. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Jose

The Fight Against Apartheid. Speaker: Miesha Patterson, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 10, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

Workers and Peasants in Power: A Report from Revolutionary Nicaragua. Speaker: Greg Nelson, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of San Jose, recently returned from Nicaragua. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 17, 7:30 p.m. 46½ Race St. Donation: \$2. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Crisis on the Farm and How to Stop Foreclosures. Speakers: Julius Anderson, Federation of Southern Cooperatives; Nathaniel Richey, Worth County Young Black Farmers Association; Martha Miller, attorney who led court fight against farm foreclosures; Elizabeth Kilanowski, member United Auto Workers Local 10 and Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 17, 7 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

Conference on Nicaragua. Three classes. "From Somoza to the Sandinistas: a History." Speaker: Ron Repps, member of United Teachers of New Orleans. Sat., May 24, noon. "Democratic Rights in Nicaragua." Speaker: Mike Ferry, member Committee Against Military Intervention in Nicaragua and Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., May 24, 2 p.m. "Blacks, Indians, and Women in Nicaragua." Speakers: Mariba Karimoca, professor at Southern University, participated in Third World Brigade in Nicaragua; Irina McAlister, Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., May 25, noon. 3207 Dublin St. Donation requested. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Fighting for Freedom, From South Africa to Central America. U.S. Youth Join the Battle. Sun., May 11, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

A Socialist Educational Conference.

"Prospects for Socialism in the United States." A forum by Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., May 17, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$2.

Two classes on Farrell Dobbs' books on the Teamster organizing drives of the 1930s. Sat., May 17, 2:30 p.m. and Sun., May 18, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: Thabo Ntweng. Donation: \$2 per

class.

Forum and classes held at 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

No to Nuclear Power: Soviet Accident Spurs Call to Shut U.S. Nukes. Speakers: representative of Socialist Workers Party; others. Sun., May 18, 5 p.m. 2219 E Market St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

A Socialist Educational Weekend.

"U.S. and World Politics Today." A forum by Mark Severs, member Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., May 17, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$2.

Two classes on the strategy for the labor movement. Class 1. "Lessons of the 1920s and '30s." Sun., May 18, 11:30 a.m. Class 2. "The Strategy for Labor Today." Sun., May 18, 2:30 p.m. Speaker: James Harris, member SWP National Committee. Donation: \$1.50 per class.

Forum and classes held at 2521 Market Ave. Ausp: Socialist Workers '86 Campaign and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

OREGON

Portland

High School Students Speak Out. Speakers: Joree Jackson, representative of Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sat., May 17, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Eyewitness Report from Nicaragua. Speaker: Clare Fraenzl, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Pennsylvania and member of United Mine Workers Local 1197. Just returned from fact-finding tour of Nicaragua. Sat., May 17, 7:30 p.m. 402 N Highland Ave. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1986 Campaign. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Socialist Educational Conference and Grand Opening of the Pathfinder Bookstore.

Two classes on "Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women." Speaker: Andrea González, staff writer for the *Militant*, attended the 1985 women's conference in Nairobi. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 10, 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. Donation: \$2 per class.

"From Libya to Nicaragua to South Africa to

the United States: A Revolutionary Strategy for the Working-class Struggle Today." A forum by Andrea González. Sat., May 10, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish. Donation: \$2.

Classes and forum held at 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Ausp: Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

Danger of Nuclear Power and How to End It. Speaker: Edwin Fruit, member United Steelworkers of America Local 7315 and Socialist Workers Party; others. Fri., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Socialist Education Conference.

"Revolutionary Struggle, From South Africa to the Philippines: What Constitutes Revolutionary Strategy in the World Today." A forum by Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., May 10, 7:30 p.m.

"Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women." Two classes by Andrea Morell. Sun., May 11, 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Lunch served between classes.

Forum and classes held at 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (206) 723-5330.



Unionists, farmers, antiwar and anti-apartheid activists, abortion rights fighters, students ...

Attend a socialist educational conference

Thirteen regional conferences scheduled May 10 through June 7.

The Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party are sponsoring weekend conferences that will feature presentations by party and YSA leaders on the international and U.S. political situation and the road forward for working-class fighters. Classes will take up topics such as imperialism and its role in Central America, the fight against women's oppression, trade unions today and the fight for a class-struggle policy, and the unfolding democratic revolution in South Africa.

For more information on the conference in your area, see directory listing at bottom of this page.

* * *
May 10
Atlanta
Los Angeles*
Salt Lake City*
Seattle*
Washington, D.C.
May 17
Boston

Cleveland*
New York City
St. Louis*
Minneapolis-St. Paul

May 31
San Francisco
Pittsburgh

June 7
Houston

*For these cities, check calendar listings above ad for more details.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and Pathfinder bookstores.

ALABAMA: Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 3750 West McDowell Road #3. Zip: 85009. Tel: (602) 272-4026.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 2803 B St. Zip: 92102. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 25 W. 3rd Ave. Zip: 80223. Tel: (303) 698-2550.

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 137 NE 54th St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 370486. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 222-4434.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: SWP, YSA, 3455 S. Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: SWP, YSA, 2135 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48201. Tel: (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4725 Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668. Socialist Books, 226-8445.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: SWP, YSA, 2219 E Market. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Pad-dock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 1701 W Bancroft St. Zip: 43606. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 402 N. Highland Ave. Mailing address: P.O. Box 4789. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

Dallas: SWP, YSA, 336 W. Jefferson. Zip: 75208. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave. Zip: 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 611A Tennessee. Zip: 25302. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Capitalism, the sane society — "Speculation that radiation from the Soviet nuclear accident may have damaged Russian farms sent grain, soybean, and livestock



Harry Ring

prices soaring on United States futures exchanges." — Associated Press.

Philosophy dep't — "Assassination, like war, is a continuation

of politics by other means. . . . Our species shrinks from cold-blooded, face-to-face killing of our own kind. . . . War, which helps make the act of killing impersonal, overcomes that innate revulsion." — Richard Kovar, an ex-CIA agent arguing for assassination as a political tool.

"You've come a long way, baby" — In a fit of recognition of the equality of the sexes, the Greater Washington Board of Trade honored Louise Lynch, president of a D.C. company, as 1986 Man of the Year.

Whose bank? — James Fletcher, Reagan's nominee to run NASA, was queried about his ear-

lier tenure in the post when he estimated the cost of shuttle launchings as about \$10 million, with the figure turning out to be \$279 million per launch. "My only answer," Fletcher responded, "is that something happened on the way to the bank."

That's capitalism, all heart — "Money received from the sale of a person's blood or blood plasma is considered earned income for food stamp purposes." — A U.S. Agriculture Department memo.

Communications breakdown? — While the Great Communicator strongly favors paving over and/or giving away wilderness resources, a federal survey found that 81 per-

cent of the public "strongly agree that the government should preserve natural areas for use by future generations."

There's always a rotten apple — "Once you get labeled as honest in the city, you're not exactly well liked." — Edward Nicastro, a whistle-blowing New York official who managed to win reinstatement after being demoted.

Worried all the way to the bank — "When you look at the demographics this country faces, it's almost scary. There will be so many old people who need care." — Robert Van Tuyle, head of Beverly Enterprises, a nursing home chain which grossed \$1.7

billion last year.

Home furnishing tip — Tired of that living room clutter? A New York designer has created a "post-modern" TV cabinet, featuring added space for VCR equipment. Copies are available for \$12,000, which does sound pricey, but the designer explains that "the top looks like a French armoire," whatever that is.

Thought for the week — "Physicians, hospitals, dentists — these are all businesses. They have to approach their audiences the same way that Coca-Cola does." — Sheila Jacobs, president of Healthcare Images, enthusing on the boom in TV health-care advertising.

Exploding myths: 'The Japan They Don't Talk About'

BY PATTI IYAMA

We have been told over and over that Japanese workers are taking jobs away from workers in the United States. We've been told they are willing to work harder than us because they are part of a "happy family" with their benevolent bosses. Japanese workers supposedly have guaranteed jobs, high pay, and good working conditions in clean, ultramodern plants.

Workers and management are allegedly more equal, with everyone eating together in the same cafeteria and with workers participating in the decision-making process through quality control circles. Because they are less

TELEVISION REVIEW

alienated, we are told, they produce high quality goods. U.S. companies can't compete with them. This is the myth we have been taught by the bosses, big-business media, capitalist politicians, and, unfortunately, even many union officials.

On April 22 NBC aired a "white paper" titled *The Japan They Don't Talk About* that addresses part of this myth.

NBC points out that only 30 percent of Japanese workers are employed in big factories. The other 70 percent work for subcontractors in sweatshops — small factories and family businesses at home. Three-fourths of the components in a finished car are subcontracted in Japan, compared to the U.S. and Europe where half the components are manufactured outside the plant.

Since most Japanese workers are employed by subcontractors, they are temporary employees, facing an uncertain future with low pay and no retirement benefits. They are not unionized. Some of the Japanese workers who produce parts for cars and stereos earn only \$12 per day. As NBC correspondent Lloyd Dobyns points out, "One reason why Japan is able to outproduce [the U.S.] is that Japan was and is a cheap-labor country."

Although Japanese workers are earning more than before, their purchasing power is about half that of U.S. workers, since Japan has to import almost everything, including food.

The average Japanese family has to spend one-quarter of its income on food, about two times as much as the average U.S. family. An apple or a grapefruit costs 90

cents. Furthermore, the income tax in Japan is one of the highest in the world.

Japanese workers do not live well. About 90 percent of the people live on 30 percent of the land between Tokyo and Osaka. A Japanese government study found that fewer than half the existing homes provide a "comfortable living space" with many families crowded into one-room or two-room apartments with no central heating or air conditioning. They do not have sewers even in the wealthiest areas of the major cities; septic tanks have to be cleaned out every few days.

For old people the situation is worse. Traditionally, the elderly used to be taken care of by their children. This has become less and less true. In 1974, 20 percent of the elderly lived alone or with a spouse. By 1984 the figure had risen to one-third of the elderly population.

And this elderly population is increasing rapidly. Japan now has the highest life expectancy in the world. It is projected that those 65 years old and over will become 20 percent of the population in the next 20 years.

The government does not provide health care. Pensions and social security benefits are not adequate for them to live on. So two times as many retired people in Japan are employed as compared to the United States. And those who continue working have their pay cut 10-25 percent even when they are doing the same work as before they "retired." In order to survive in old age most Japanese workers try to save one-quarter to one-third of their income.

But the worst conditions are endured by Japanese women workers. Women first got the vote in Japan in 1946, after World War II. The first equal-opportunity law for women was passed on April 1, 1986, but the law has no enforcement provision.

The program shows how the second-class status of women has been highly profitable to the Japanese capitalists. More than 80 percent of all part-time employees are women. Three-quarters of them work to support themselves or their families and are over the age of 35. In addition, 3 million women work as unpaid help in family businesses. Some do piecework at home, especially in the electronics industry.

The egalitarian nature of the workplace is also disclosed as false by this program. The lessons given in an adult behavior class for employees of a Tokyo department store illustrate this. A supervisor is showing employees how to bow. The lower the job and pay scale, the



Workers in Tokyo protesting high living costs. Japanese workers' purchasing power is half that of U.S. workers. A family spends one-quarter of its income on food — twice as much as in the United States.

deeper the bow to the superior. A junior executive is taught to bow more deeply to his boss than to a colleague. Any woman must bow deeply to men of any rank.

This NBC show presents important facts about life for Japanese workers, counteracting some of the myths we've been taught. The program reveals, as Dobyns says, a Japan "where lifetime employment does not exist, where wages are low, hours long, and benefits nonexistent. Workers squeeze their small salaries for savings because if they don't, they could spend their old age in poverty."

There were, however, problems with the show. It runs superficially over the facts and figures and fails to give an analysis about why this situation exists in Japan.

It ignores the fact that workers have in the past and continue to resist the exploitation they suffer at the hands of the employers. This failure helps to perpetuate some of the most damaging stereotypes about Japanese workers.

2 million S. African Blacks stage May Day strike

Continued from front page

ing congress of COSATU took place a year later.

In addition to such projects as forging single unions for each major industry and fighting for improved wages and working conditions, the founding congress of COSATU placed the struggle against apartheid at the center of the federation's activities.

The COSATU congress called for the establishment of a united, democratic, nonracial South Africa. In defiance of the regime's antidemocratic laws, it called for divestment of U.S. and other corporations with investments or loans in South Africa.

Elijah Barayi, the elected president of the federation, also called for a campaign to abolish the pass laws, and the federation executive council decided to launch a national campaign against these repressive laws.

The prospect of this campaign was among the pressures that forced the regime to propose replacing the pass laws.

In another expression of defiance of the apartheid regime, leaders of COSATU met with Oliver Tambo, president of the outlawed African National Congress, and

leaders of the South African Congress of Trade Unions in Lusaka, Zambia, on March 5 and 6. The South African Congress of Trade Unions was forced underground in the 1960s because of its opposition to apartheid.

A joint statement by the participants in the Lusaka meeting declared: "There was common understanding that the Pretoria regime and the ruling class of South Africa are powerless to provide any real and meaningful solutions to this general crisis, that lasting solutions can only emerge from the national liberation movement, headed by the ANC, and the entire democratic forces of our country, of which COSATU is an important integral part."

"In this regard it was recognized that the fundamental problem facing our country, the question of political power, cannot be resolved without the full participation of the ANC, which is regarded by the majority of the people of South Africa as the overall leader and genuine representative."

COSATU and other anti-apartheid forces have scheduled a three-day work stoppage June 16-18, coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the 1976 uprising of Black youth that began in Soweto.



Elijah Barayi, president of half-million member Congress of South African Trade Unions.

High court pushes death penalty

The Supreme Court has cleared the way to expand the use of the barbaric death penalty.

In a 6-to-3 decision on May 5, the court ruled that potential jurors who oppose the death penalty can be automatically excluded from serving on juries involving capital punishment.

The court made this decision despite studies that demonstrated that "death qualified" jurors — those who support the death penalty — are more likely to convict a defendant than those who oppose legalized murder.

These studies also show that supporters of the death penalty are more likely to believe that a defendant's failure to testify is an indication of guilt; are more hostile to an insanity defense; are more mistrustful of defense attorneys; and are less concerned about convicting the wrong person.

The court decision, in effect, gives the state the right to stack a jury against a defendant in cases where the punishment could be execution.

The ruling says that a jury that is more likely to convict the defendant is a fair jury in capital punishment cases.

The decision is a flagrant violation of the right to a fair

trial. It demonstrates once again that the death penalty has nothing to do with justice.

It is a weapon of the ruling class to terrorize the exploited and oppressed. And in this racist society, 42 percent of all people on death row are Black.

There are now 1,714 people on death row. This decision will hasten the execution of dozens of these people. As a result of this decision, the rate of execution in the next four years is expected to increase from six so far this year to 100 people a year.

At a time when Washington is stepping up its attacks against workers and farmers at home and deepening its war moves abroad, it needs more leeway to use the death penalty. This is part and parcel of other moves to strip away democratic rights and strengthen the repressive apparatus of cops and courts.

The American Civil Liberties Union called the Supreme Court's decision "outrageous." They're right.

All working people and supporters of democratic rights should be outraged. We should rally to stop the executions and demand an end to the use of the death penalty.

Antiabortion terror must stop

"If they're not going to change the laws, we're going to make it hard. We want to harass them. We want to make the situation so tough that having an abortion is not feasible."

That's how Winston Wilder, president of the Dallas Abortion Abolition Society, explained the aims of his organization.

A convention of antiabortion fanatics last spring in Appleton, Wisconsin, declared 1985 a "year of fear and pain" for abortion providers.

"This is no movement of moderation," said Joseph Scheidler, author of *Closed, 99 Ways to Stop Abortion*, a handbook on how to shut down abortion clinics. "I want them to be afraid of me," he said of doctors and clinic staff.

Scheidler openly conducts workshops on how to organize attacks on clinics. The sessions include specific instructions on how to dismantle medical equipment used in performing abortions.

On March 25 Scheidler conducted such a workshop in Pensacola, Florida, where he spoke on how to organize an attack on an abortion clinic. The next day 50 thugs stormed the clinic, injuring workers, ransacking files, and destroying medical equipment. A few arrests were made, but no action was taken against Scheidler.

Scheidler denies his organization is connected to the rash of clinic bombings, but thinks they are a good thing. "We use the bombings," he said. "It's pretty cheap publicity and it makes them afraid."

According to statistics compiled by the National Abortion Federation, since 1984 abortion clinics and clinic workers have been subjected to:

- 22 bombings

- 15 arsons
- 12 attempted arsons or bombings
- 89 invasions

That criminal activities like these are carried out with relative impunity on such a massive scale — clearly and openly aimed at denying women their rights — is an outrage.

The attempts by the courts and local, state, and federal governments to restrict abortion rights, combined with the unending stream of ruling-class antiabortion propaganda, emboldens violent opponents of women's rights.

Abortion is a woman's constitutional right. That's what the Supreme Court ruled in 1973. Legal abortion is the law of the land. The government has the responsibility to uphold the law and guarantee that women can safely and freely exercise their democratic right to choose abortion. The government must protect clinics, clinic operators, and the women who use their services.

Those responsible for the terrorist campaign against women's rights should be arrested, prosecuted, and convicted.

The 160,000 abortion rights supporters who turned out for the National March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles on March 9 and 16 showed the readiness of women's rights supporters to fight to defend abortion rights.

In Pennsylvania a statewide March for Women's Lives is taking place in Harrisburg on May 10.

That's exactly what's needed to begin building a powerful movement, involving all supporters of women's equality, that can beat back the assault against abortion rights.

INS labels Nicaragua 'totalitarian'

Citing Sandinista "totalitarianism," the chief official of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Florida has announced that from now on no Nicaraguans will be deported from the United States back to their country.

Why?

Because, INS official Perry Rivkind declared, Nicaragua has a "totalitarian" government.

Rivkind's decision was in line with proposed changes in immigration policy being drafted by the Justice Department.

Under present U.S. immigration law, an individual must prove a "well-founded fear of persecution" on account of race, religion, nationality, or political views in order to be granted political asylum.

Under the new rules proposed by the Reagan administration, anyone seeking asylum from a so-called totalitarian regime would automatically be presumed to have a "well-founded fear of persecution" and thus would be eligible for asylum.

The move to add the Nicaraguan government to Washington's list of international pariahs is another part of the massive anti-Nicaragua propaganda campaign in this country. Its purpose is to convince U.S. working people that we should support the bloody *contra* war that Washington is waging against the people of Nicaragua.

"We can't be lobbying for \$100 million of aid to the *contras* and be deporting people to Nicaragua at the same time," a Reagan administration official candidly explained.

An honest person might misread the new guidelines as good news for the thousands of refugees from U.S.-backed terror in El Salvador and Guatemala — who have fled death squads, torture, imprisonment, and rape —

and as a vindication of the sanctuary workers facing imprisonment in Arizona for helping these refugees.

But the INS quickly explained that the new proposals would not cover Guatemala and El Salvador.

In other words, the INS simply puts an equal sign between "totalitarian" and any government that Washington doesn't like.

In practice, this double standard has always been applied. But the new rules will make it harder to fight for asylum for genuine victims of persecution.

Thousands of Haitians who fled the U.S.-supported dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier were denied political asylum.

This was despite testimony by former members of Duvalier's secret police, who reported standing orders from Duvalier requiring the immediate arrest and imprisonment of any Haitian returning to Haiti after unsuccessfully seeking political asylum. Others testified that they had direct knowledge of returnees being executed. But the U.S. courts and immigration service didn't flinch from sending many to their deaths.

We oppose all deportations. Laws against undocumented workers are used to terrorize and divide working people.

And they are always used selectively. The government wants to deport refugees from El Salvador who can tell U.S. workers the truth about Washington's role in sowing misery and terror in their country. The government uses the same laws as part of its campaign to slander and isolate Nicaragua.

It's important for opponents of the U.S. war in Central America to answer every lie and slander about Nicaragua while we organize the broadest possible protest demonstrations against U.S. government aid to the *contras*.

Castro on defeat of South African invasion of Angola

In 1976, the Angolan people, with the help of Cuban volunteer fighters, defeated an invasion of their country by South African troops.

On April 19, 1976, Fidel Castro gave a speech on the defeat of this U.S.-backed invasion. The occasion was a commemoration of Cuba's own victory against U.S. mercenary forces at Playa Giron (Bay of Pigs) in 1961. The title of the speech is "An African Giron: May 1976."

The speech appears in the Fall 1985 issue of *New Internationalist*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory. The entire issue is devoted to the struggle in South Africa. The magazine, which costs \$5.00, can be ordered by mail from *New Internationalist*, 14

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014 (please send \$.75 for postage and handling) or picked up at the Pathfinder bookstore nearest you. (See directory page 16.)

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In commemorating this, the 15th anniversary of the heroic, glorious victory at Giron, our people have an additional reason to be proud, which constitutes their finest expression of internationalism and transcends the boundaries of this continent: the historical victory of the people of Angola, [Prolonged applause] to whom we offered the generous and unlimited solidarity of our revolution.

At Giron, African blood was shed, that of the selfless descendants of a people who were slaves before they became workers, and who were exploited workers before they became masters of their homeland. And in Africa, together with the blood of the heroic fighters of Angola, Cuban blood, that of the sons of Martí, Maceo, and Aguirre, that of the heirs to the internationalist tradition set by Máximo Gómez [heroes of Cuban independence struggle] and Che Guevara, [Prolonged applause] also flowed. Those who once enslaved man and sent him to America perhaps never imagined that one of those peoples who received the slaves would one day send their fighters to struggle for freedom in Africa.

The victory in Angola was the twin sister of the victory at Giron. [Applause] For the Yankee imperialists, Angola represents an African Giron.

The United States invested tens of millions of dollars from the spring of 1975 on to supply arms and instructors to the counterrevolutionary, secessionist Angolan groups.

The enemy has talked about the number of Cubans in Angola. It is sufficient to say that once the struggle began, Cuba sent the men and the weapons necessary to win that struggle. [Applause] To give due honor to our people, we must say that hundreds of thousands of fighters from our regular troops and reserves were ready to fight alongside their Angolan brothers. [Applause]

No Latin American country, whatever its social system, will have anything to fear from the armed forces of Cuba. It is our deepest conviction that each people must be free to build their own destiny; that each people and only the people of each country must and will make their own revolution. The government of Cuba has never thought of taking revolution to any nation of this hemisphere with the arms of its military units. Such an idea would be absurd and ridiculous.

No country of Black Africa has anything to fear from Cuban military personnel. We are a Latin-African people — enemies of colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, and apartheid, which Yankee imperialism aids and protects.

The Yankee imperialists have hundreds of thousands of soldiers abroad; they have military bases on all continents and in all seas. In Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Turkey, Western Europe, Panama, and many other places, their military installations can be counted by the dozens and the hundreds. In Cuba itself they occupy by force a piece of our territory.

What moral and legal right do they have to protest that Cuba provides instructors and assistance for the technical preparation of the armies of African countries and of other parts of the underdeveloped world that request them?

What right do they have to criticize the aid and solidarity we give to a sister people of Africa such as Angola, who have been criminally attacked?

The imperialists are pained that Cuba, the attacked and blockaded country they tried to destroy fifteen years ago by a mercenary invasion, is today a solid and indestructible bulwark of the world revolutionary movement, whose example of bravery, dignity, and determination gives encouragement to peoples in their struggle for liberation. [Applause]

'Newsweek' poll: majority of women back feminism

"With liberation comes anxiety, dread, the meaninglessness of choices," says a Rutgers University political scientist.

"The guilt is forever," says a young working woman of the fact that she can't spend more time with her daughter.

"My job is exciting and gratifying, but I'm haunted by the fear that I'm missing out on the most meaningful part



WOMEN IN REVOLT Pat Grogan

of life by not having children," says a woman executive.

These are samples from a major spread on women and work in the March 31 issue of *Newsweek* magazine. It is one of a spate of "backlash" articles that blame the women's liberation movement for the very real problems working women face.

But a Gallup poll done for *Newsweek*, which accompanies the article, tells a different story.

The poll shows that 71 percent of women polled think that the women's liberation movement has improved their lives, and that the majority consider themselves feminists. The percentages of support for women's liberation were highest among nonwhite and working women.

Here are some of the results of the poll:

Asked, "Do you consider yourself a feminist?" 56 percent of women answered yes. Twenty-eight percent said no. Only 4 percent said they were antifeminist.

The breakdown is as follows: 55 percent of white women and 64 percent of nonwhite women considered themselves feminists. Fifty-nine percent of working women considered themselves feminists as compared to 48 percent of nonworking women.

To the question, "Has the women's movement done very well, fairly well, or not well in improving your

life?" only 18 percent answered not well. This category wasn't broken down according to working and nonworking women.

A total of 18 percent said the women's rights movement had done very well — 16 percent of white women and 30 percent of nonwhite women.

Newsweek never explains why the results of the poll don't jibe with the thrust of its article that women are fed up with the rights we have won so far.

The *Newsweek* article and others like it present a false picture of the women's liberation movement aimed at trivializing women's oppression. It goes something like this: a bunch of bored suburbanite women got together in the late 1960s and came up with the notion of women's liberation. They wanted to have it all. Now they've got it, and they don't like it. They're finding out it's pretty rough out there in a "man's world."

As *Newsweek* puts it, "Flying the feminist banner, a pioneering cadre of women slammed the doors of their suburban homes and stormed the inner offices of corporate America. Only now, there is . . . a nagging suspicion that there is more to life than the workplace can offer."

The truth is a little different. Here's a description of the historic Aug. 26, 1970, women's rights demonstration in New York City — the first mass action of the newly emerged women's liberation movement. It is from the *New York Times*, and despite the cynicism, reflects the impact of the action.

"Every kind of woman you ever see in New York was there: limping octogenarians, braless teenagers, Black Panther women, telephone operators, waitresses, Westchester matrons, fashion models, Puerto Rican factory workers, nurses in uniform, young mothers carrying their babies on their backs."

Almost everyone was taken by surprise when some 35,000 to 40,000 women and men turned out to march down 5th Avenue that day, announcing a powerful new movement. Here's another description by *New York Post* columnist Pete Hamill, who described the impact of seeing "that line of women, filling the width of the avenue, shouting for equal pay for equal jobs, free abortion on demand, and 24-hour day-care centers. The laughing and snickering are now officially over."

The women's liberation movement grew out of big social changes. Chief among them was that millions of women were drawn out of the home and into the work force in the decades following World War II.

Inspired by the civil rights movement and the movement against the war in Vietnam, women began to challenge their second-class status and fight the discrimination and the archaic laws that oppress them.

The women's liberation movement fought for and won the right to safe, legal abortion, giving women the ability to control their own bodies.

It challenged discrimination on the job and fought for equal pay for equal work, affirmative action, maternity benefits, pay equity, and child care.

It raised the powerful idea that women should be equal in all aspects of society and gave women the confidence to stand up and fight.

It should come as no surprise that most women think that feminism has improved their lives. Or that — contrary to myth — support for women's liberation is strongest among working women and among Black, Puerto Rican, Chicana, and other women who are victims of racist discrimination. It is these women who have the most to gain from the fight for women's liberation.

Today there are some 50 million women in the work force. About 55 percent of women with children under the age of six work full-time, and 61 percent of mothers with children under age 18 are full-time workers.

In the majority of households, both spouses work. Less than 10 percent of households fit the pattern of husband as breadwinner and woman as homemaker. And single women head 16 percent of all households, a figure that is growing.

I agree with the *Newsweek* article in one respect. Being a woman worker isn't easy. It's hard.

It's hard being the last hired and the first fired. It's hard being paid 64 cents to the dollar men earn. It's hard battling sexual harassment. And it's hard carrying all or most of the burden of housework and the care of children — especially without adequate child care.

But the fight for women's liberation isn't the problem. It's a big part of the solution.

U.S. government cover-up of Three Mile Island

Continued from Page 6

After the plant began to release more radiation later that same day, the cover-up began to be exposed. The new leak was followed by a statement from Pennsylvania Gov. Richard Thornburgh. He merely advised everyone within a 10-mile radius to stay indoors and keep windows shut. He also suggested pregnant women and children leave the area, but there was never an organized evacuation. By this time, however, the extent of the danger was becoming generally known and many people wisely began to voluntarily evacuate.

On April 1, the fifth day of the disaster,

President James Carter visited the area. Parroting the lies of plant management, the NRC, and state officials, he said publicly that radiation levels were "safe for all concerned."

The lie that there are safe levels of radiation is still being peddled by the U.S. government. But as one anti-nuclear energy activist correctly pointed out during the events at Three Mile Island, "A little radiation is harmful. More radiation is more harmful."

But it wasn't until May 3, some five

weeks after the disaster began, that the government admitted area residents would suffer from radioactive poisoning. On that day Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano told a Senate committee that as many as 10 would die of cancer.

This conservative estimate was challenged by many radiation experts. Prof. Ernest Sternglass at the University of Pittsburgh estimated that up to 2,500 deaths could result from radioactive krypton and xenon released at Three Mile Island. He also estimated that the rates of spontaneous abortions, birth defects, and leukemia would increase 20 to 50 percent

downwind from the plant.

Residents of nearby Harrisburg and people across the country and the world were outraged by the U.S. government's lies and complicity in the Three Mile Island cover-up. The disaster also convinced millions around the world to oppose the production of nuclear energy.

This was evident after the disaster when 125,000 demonstrated in Washington, D.C., on May 6, 1979, demanding "No nukes!" Prominent among the banners was a slogan that still holds true: "Uncle Sam lies about nuke safety."

LETTERS

AIDS and drugs

Your editorial on William Buckley's homophobic AIDS column was right on the money.

But did you know just how the medical profession, particularly the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), have helped this along?

In issue #99 of *Christopher Street*, Dr. Cesar Carcares, a doctor practicing in Washington, D.C., and former 10-year officer for the Public Health Service, states his belief that 79 percent of all people with AIDS in the United States should be classified as drug abusers. Carcares bases his estimates on cases he has worked with and on figures from the CDC.

Carcares is not the first to report this. Medical reports on AIDS patients state that half use as many as five street drugs in a year.

Dr. Carcares believes heavy drug abuse — including alcohol and cigarette consumption — can cause a depression of the immune system in certain individuals already deficient in production of certain immune hormones. The Centers for Disease Control has not bothered to investigate this possibility.

Instead, the CDC is lending a cover of scientific respectability to anti-gay attacks.

For example, when AIDS first began appearing among gay men,

the CDC initially noted and warned about the use of the drug amyl nitrate (poppers). Now, however, the CDC only attacks the sexual practice of gay men.

In addition, the CDC has classified the 10 percent of intravenous drug users who are gay as "homosexual" only, which leads to a 50 percent underreporting of the number of intravenous drug users with AIDS.

The article also points out that, proportionately, gay men are at lower risk for AIDS than hemophiliacs or intravenous drug users who are not gay. The article's major point is that the CDC's categories inhibit research into this area. But another point that comes through is that the CDC and much of the AIDS research effort have been put at the service of anti-gay propaganda.

J.W.
Indianapolis, Indiana

Just love it!

I have become an ardent and diehard fan of your publication ever since another prisoner gave me an old edition. I just love it! Even though it was old, I had never read a newspaper with the ability to reach out and grasp me like the *Militant*! It was truthful and straightforward and tells it like it is.

I was really broadened by the editorial "Why Angola is under attack!" It doesn't seem to matter who or where you are, if you oppose capitalistic and imperialistic oppression and exploitation, you become a target for U.S. aggression. I am glad there is a publication such as yours that doesn't conform, compromise, or knuckle under to this system.

If I could, I would purchase 100 years worth of your publication and pass them around to all my friends. But alas, I am currently serving a prison term, and I am without funds. I would really appreciate a subscription to the *Militant* so that I can broaden my knowledge of the world's events and enlighten my comrades also. Keep up your good work.

A prisoner
San Quentin, California

The underclass

There have been a lot of articles in the press about the development of an "underclass," which is an alleged result of dependency on welfare and of "crime."

This is part of the ruling class' propaganda aimed at atomizing the working class and bolstering racist and anti-woman sentiments.

I thought it would be good if the *Militant* could do an article that would take up the political argu-

ments and facts around this because I hear it repeated by coworkers and others.

Greg McCartan
Atlanta, Georgia

Request

I'm incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. I am writing to request that I be placed on your mailing list to begin receiving the *Militant*, the first copy of which I read today and enjoyed immensely.

A prisoner
Jefferson City, Missouri

Great pleasure

In regard to the story printed in the *Militant*, "Nicaraguan government signs cease-fire with leaders of Miskito groups," let me say that it certainly gives me great pleasure to learn that the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) is finally unifying itself with the Miskito Indian group KISAN by signing a joint military pact with the leaders of the Miskito tribes.

As we know, unity is our weapon against imperialism, which oppresses the working class and poor throughout the world. May the celebration of the sixth anniversary of the founding of the Sandinista People's Militias be re-

membered and may it be forever united against all acts of imperialism and its allies.

Congratulations are in order for Brigade Commander Francisco Rivera of the FSLN. Congratulations are also in order for KISAN leaders, Juan Salgado and Larry Wilson. They are instrumental in the unifying of this great force in order to stand together as one people and defend the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua from the terrorizing threat of full-scale invasion by the imperialist powers of the United States and the U.S.-backed thugs called the *contras* in Honduras.

A prisoner
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

'We have the same opponent'

National Organization for Women supports Hormel strike

BY PAT SILVERTHORN

MIAMI — The striking meatpackers of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 gained significant new support this week when the national board of the National Organization for Women (NOW) voted to back their strike against George A. Hormel and Company in Austin, Minnesota.

The national board meeting here May 2-4 voted to support the strike and the union's boycott of Hormel products following a presentation by two members of the striking local. They explained the stakes in their struggle and urged NOW to stand in solidarity with them.

NOW's leaders adopted a resolution calling on the entire organization to "support the struggle of UFCW Local P-9 for democratic rights and a fair contract" and to support the boycott of Hormel products. It also encouraged NOW members to attend the national solidarity rally in Ottumwa, Iowa, on May 10.

"NOW recognizes the importance of solidarity with the union movement and our common struggle for social and economic justice," the resolution stated. "Our real opposition is the same; they are the ones who profit from denying women their rights, just as they profit from denying trade unionists, Blacks, ethnic and other minorities their rights," the resolution continued.

Stressing the need for unity in the face of attacks on the rights of women and work-

ing people, the resolution stated, "NOW stands in solidarity with the trade unionists determined to protect the victories of the past 50 years for workers, minorities, and women's rights, and determined to fight back against those who want to push us backwards."

The resolution explained that although Hormel is the most profitable meatpacker in the industry, it cut workers' wages by 23 percent. The board also noted the high injury rate at the Austin plant.

The resolution condemned the Minnesota National Guard and local law enforcement officials for harassment and violent attacks against the strikers and their families, while they protect strikebreakers. It condemned Hormel's use of scabs, the firing of union activists, and the company's refusal to negotiate with the strikers.

The decision of the NOW National Board follows four NOW regional conferences that took positions in support of the Hormel strikers.

Striking members of Local P-9 were able to attend many of the regional conferences, where they were met with support from NOW members who were inspired by their fight.

There was overwhelming support registered on the NOW National Board for P-9's struggle. The decision is an important step in building solidarity between the labor movement and fighters for women's rights.

The national board also voted to actively support the TWA flight attendants' strike.



Striking Minnesota meatpackers joined March 9 abortion rights action in effort to win support for struggle against Hormel. National leadership of National Organization for Women backs strikers' fight for decent contract.

N.Y. march against apartheid June 14



Aug. 13, 1985, New York City anti-apartheid action of 30,000 called by local unions.

BY MEL MASON

NEW YORK — A march to protest South African apartheid and to demand an end to all U.S. ties with the racist regime will be held here June 14.

It will also commemorate the 10th anniversary of the rebellion in Soweto, South Africa.

On June 16, 1976, South African police gunned down hundreds of Black youth who were peacefully protesting the racist regime's decision to force the use of the Afrikaans language in African schools. Afrikaans is the Dutch-based language spoken by more than half of South Africa's white minority. This repression sparked a rebellion by Black youth in the township of Soweto, which inspired workers and stu-

dents around the world.

Soweto Day will be observed this year as an international day of solidarity with the people of South Africa.

The June 14 protest in New York is sponsored by the New York Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council. It has already been endorsed by the state AFL-CIO, New York City Central Labor Council, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, NAACP, and the N.Y. Labor Committee Against Apartheid, as well as many other Black community, religious, and student leaders and organizations.

"The New York Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council and June 14 were the results of people asking 'What next?' after the August demonstration," said Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of United Auto Workers District 65 and a central leader of the council.

Black trade unionists organized a march and rally of 30,000 in New York City in August 1985 to protest the state of emergency imposed by the South African government.

It was a result of the momentum from this action that the coordinating council was formed last September. More than 200 labor, religious, community, and student organizations are affiliated to it.

Confirmed speakers for the rally include Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress of South Africa, and Allen Boesak of the United Democratic Front, a broad-based South African anti-apartheid coalition.

Cleveland Robinson said that while the demonstration is mainly focused on apartheid and U.S. backing for it, the organizers are welcoming the participation of antiwar and Central America solidarity groups. "They should draw the connection between the struggle against U.S. intervention in Central America and the struggle against apartheid in South Africa," he said. He added, "If they are willing to march behind

Boston: protest plan to close schools

BY JON HILLSON
AND ELLEN BERMAN

BOSTON — Student walkouts, protests, and an upsurge of parent-student organizing have been the militant response here to proposed school closings.

The "cost-cutting" school shutdowns and wholesale student transfers, announced April 11 by Boston schools Superintendent Laval Wilson, are a result, he said, of school budget deficits.

In reality, however, these moves are the sharpest attack yet on the fruits of desegregated public education. Desegregation here was the product of a sweeping court order by then Federal District Judge W. Arthur Garrity in 1974.

More than a thousand Black, Latino, and white students from Umana, Madison Park, and Jamaica Plain high schools — three of the affected schools — marched on Boston School Committee offices April 14. Chanting "one for all and all for one," these students were joined by allies from

Boston Technical High School, which, under the proposal, would be moved to the Madison Park High School building, pushing its students out.

Superintendent Wilson and his backers have adopted such divide-and-rule tactics, hoping to pit one group of students, teachers, and parents against the other as a means to dismantle desegregated schools.

The student demonstrators have been hailed by parents, teachers in the targeted schools, their principals, and Black, Hispanic, and other community groups.

Virtually all of the students involved have gone through Boston's public schools since the beginning of desegregation, which had been blocked for years by the Boston School Committee and other local capitalist politicians. When the buses began to roll in 1974, desegregation was met with racist mob resistance, which focused international attention on Boston.

Black community-based efforts to counter this violence inspired national solidar-

ity, helping to secure the enforcement of the Garrity order.

The result was a school system which began to provide equal access to Blacks, more Black teachers and other staff, increased bilingual education, greater parent and community involvement, and affirmative action in building and repairing schools in the Black and Latino communities.

In the last several years, however, the old guard racist foes of equality, who led antibusing bigots in their violent effort to block desegregation, have been replaced by the more sophisticated bigotry of moderate-sounding Democrats and their liberal mouthpiece, the *Boston Globe*. They are now using the smoke screen of "financial woes" in their campaign to overturn minority and working-class gains made through desegregated public education.

The *Globe* favors all the proposed school closings, with the exception of Jamaica

Continued on Page 14

Continued on Page 5